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The Nation

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1912.

The Week

The winning of half the Oklahoma delegation to the Baltimore Convention is a highly significant victory for Woodrow Wilson, for it fully confirms the estimate that has been placed by his advocates upon his strength in the Middle West. In Oklahoma Champ Clark was supposed to be strongly intrenched, the neighborhood feeling, as well as other elements, being a powerful factor in his favor. With this send-off in a comparatively unpromising State, it may now be expected that cumulative indications of Gov. Wilson's strength will be showing themselves, both in the West and in the South. Of course, much will depend on developments in the political situation generally, and in the Republican as well as in the Democratic party. The case is very different from what it would be if the Republican nomination were a foregone conclusion. For the present, nobody can be quite certain what aspect the campaign will present; and at the last moment the choice may turn on the feeling that one Democrat rather than another is the "logical" candidate to be put up at Baltimore in response to the choice made the previous week at Chicago.

One straw vote in the West has been strangely overlooked by the Colonel's admirers, though it gives convincing proof of his immense popularity. We refer to the postal-card canvass conducted by the *Appeal to Reason*. This is the well-known Socialist paper, with a large circulation. Calling upon its readers for an expression of their Presidential preferences, it has found, to date, that 41,384 of them want Roosevelt, while only 426 declare for Taft. This looks perfectly overwhelming till we note that Roosevelt really ran fourth, Debs leading with 65,928 votes, McNamara getting 54,726, Gompers being third with 48,225. Closely after Roosevelt, the fourth favorite, came Haywood with 41,109 votes. This is fine company for the Colonel. But as he is only fourth in the affections of the Socialists, it follows, by the irresistible logic which has been used in connection with the other Western straw votes, that there is a whirlwind demand of the people that Debs be made President.

We are not always able to agree with the Chicago *Inter Ocean*, but its opposition to the desire of political conventions to break all records for length of cheering popular leaders is both sound and bold. It owns to sympathy with the man who rises and waves his flags and lets out his voice from spontaneous impulse. It even avows a belief in the yelling that is sincere. But it criticises the "demonstration" that has become a mere affair of keeping itself going as long as possible, and it refers to the spectacle at Chicago and to the one at Denver four years ago when the names of Roosevelt and Bryan, respectively, were presented. Those who read of what followed may have received the idea of a touching outburst of genuine loyalty which a solid hour of shouting and marching could hardly exhaust, but to those on the spot the creaking of the machinery grew increasingly evident after the first few minutes. And what good came of it at last? A few short months after Mr. Bryan's trained acousticians had triumphed over those of Mr. Roosevelt, and still more impressively over those of Mr. Taft, the last-named gentleman was inaugurated.

Those were wholesome and sober words that Gov. Harmon spoke to the Kentucky Legislature when he said that the ultimate force behind the movement for the initiative, referendum, and recall was supplied by the shortcomings of the men in public office. Agitators are quick to seize upon grievances and make a great noise about cheap cure-alls; but if the grievances were not there, such men would have little chance. Quite properly, too, Mr. Harmon pointed out some substantial administrative and fiscal reforms that had been accomplished in Ohio in his term as Governor; for upon actual achievements of this kind the case for representative government as we have known it in the past must rest. It is to be regretted, however, that he put the case of the expenses of the national Government as he did. "It ought not to cost," he said, "a billion dollars a year, or over $11 for each man, woman, and child in the country, to maintain the Federal Government with its limited functions." That there is need of economizing in the Federal Government is true enough; but such a statement as this makes a false impression. Outside the post office, which is self-supporting, the annual expenditures of the Federal Government are not a billion dollars, but about $650,000,000; and of this about $400,000,000 are for army, navy, pensions, and interest on the public debt. What is spent in order to "maintain the Federal Government, with its limited functions," as that phrase would usually be understood, is about a quarter of a billion dollars, instead of a billion.

Serious faults in the bill to regulate immigration, now pending in the Senate, are discovered as the debate on the measure proceeds. As drafted, the bill specified among aliens to be excluded "persons who are not eligible to become citizens of the United States by naturalization." The intent was, obviously, to settle in this way the question of Chinese and Japanese immigration. But an unforeseen difficulty at once arose; for in order to become naturalized, applicants must be able to speak English, and hence this clause of the bill might be tortured into authority for keeping out all immigrants who speak only a foreign language. When this danger was pointed out, the advocates of the bill rather shamefacedly accepted an amendment providing that "no alien shall be denied admission to the United States solely because of inability to speak the English language." Even this does not meet the case, since applications for naturalization must, by the law, be "signed by the applicant in his own handwriting." Thus there might be in the clause in question a lurking attempt to set up by indirection the literary test for immigrants. Other similar complications might easily be caused by passing the bill as framed. Its chief defect, as we have before said, is its lack of explicitness. It may be well to revise and codify our immigration laws, but the work should be done with a thoroughness that left no room for suspicion of "jokers" in the bill.

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Early action is expected in the Senate on the Stephenson case. The Committee on Privileges and Elections is unanimous in saying that the expenditure of $107,793 (the amount which Senator Stephenson acknowledges he paid to carry the primaries) "was in violation of the fundamental principles underlying our system of government, which contemplated the selection of candidates by the electors, not the selection of the electors by the candidate." Yet the majority of the committee does not see in that fact sufficient reason for unseating the man who paid this sum of money avowedly and designedly for that purpose. In other words, the majority lends its sanction to a violation of the "fundamental principles" of our system of government, and gives its assent to the selection of electors by the candidate, on a cash basis. If the Senate ratifies the majority report it will by so much give license to the rich men of the country to buy up the seats in that body. If all the seats are to be put up at auction, there is no doubt that buyers can be found in all the States as easily as in Wisconsin and Illinois.

A brief homily on the question of violence in labor disputes, chiefly interesting because it is written from the "inside," appears in last week's *Independent*. The author is Harry Orchard, of Haywood-Moyer trial fame, and he writes from the inside of Idaho State's Prison at Boisé. It is Mr. Orchard's emphatic belief that "direct action" is both wicked and unprofitable. The system of intimidation by dynamite did work well, "with hardly an exception, up until the McNamara confession," but it has now got a blow from which it will never recover. All right-thinking men will join Mr. Orchard in this hope. At any rate, Harry Orchard out of prison never did as clear thinking as he reveals in the following passage:

> Now, while the great wheels of industry are busy grinding out their dollars, they are also slowly, but surely, grinding out the lives of men and women that keep them in motion. Some of the great industries are very hazardous at best. The greedy captains that control them should be forced to make the conditions as safe and sanitary as possible. The kind of force, however, that we have been talking about will not do the work. But if labor organizations will place big, broad-minded men at their head, letting them direct the policies of the union, and, instead of sowing the seed of discontent and strife, establish schools of education along economic lines, etc.

The trouble is that the partisan of "direct action" is dazzled by the immediateness of results obtained. A bridge or a factory is blown up and the "victory" is won. A fig for your painfully slow orthodox union methods! What the anarchist refuses to see is that violence, like murder, will out; that his "victory" turns to ashes, and that it takes years of painful effort for labor to make up the loss of that "victory."

The American Express Company, we read, has paid $43,500,000 in dividends since 1868. Forty-three million dollars in forty-four years is almost exactly a million dollars a year, and that might not seem an outrageous annual profit for a business concern of such vast dimensions. Neither is there anything overwhelming in the statement that this same company has received from its patrons during the same period the sum of $598,000,000, which means an annual gross revenue of $15,000,000 a year; this again might seem no formidable sum for an enterprise of national scope. One need not hold a brief for the express companies to question the effectiveness of such long strings of figures. Nevertheless, there is little doubt that the express companies have been charging excessive rates and accumulating very large profits. The Interstate Commerce Commission's investigation into the express business has already been more than justified. But for the purpose of emphasizing the extortionate practices of the express companies, the statement that they charge fifty cents for carrying a parcel that could be carried for fifteen is more convincing than any number of millions spread before the eye.

It would be interesting to know how leading members of the bar in our country feel when confronted with such a statement as that made by Mr. Justice Riddell of Ontario, in an interview in the New York *Sun:*

> I have been at the bar or on the bench about thirty years, and never, even in murder cases have I seen more than half an hour consumed in getting a jury. . . . I have never but once known even a murder case to last as much as four days. . . . Some time ago I went to hold the London (Ont.) Assizes. There were to be tried four criminal cases, one of murder, one of manslaughter, one of serious embezzlement, and one of less importance, and eleven civil cases. At the same time I opened my assize in London, a court in Detroit, Mich., only a few hours further along the railroad, began to get a jury in a murder case. My four prisoners were on their way to the penitentiary and seven of the eleven civil cases had been disposed of before half the jury had been got together in Detroit. . . . Our criminal law is codified in the simplest possible form, and there is not an appeal once in fifty cases.

The contrast may here be somewhat exaggerated, but in essence it represents the truth. And what do we get in return for the frightful waste and trouble of our criminal procedure? Does any one pretend that we get more exact justice than is attained in England or in Canada? Is it not true, on the contrary, that the tremendous cumbrousness of our procedure only lowers the confidence of the community in the soundness of its results?

Resolutions pointing to an energetic campaign against the chestnut tree blight marked the close of the congress of experts from twenty-nine States, which, at the invitation of Gov. Tener, has been meeting at Harrisburg. The gathering called upon the States, the Federal Government, and Canada to follow the lead of Pennsylvania in combating the disease which menaces the entire chestnut growth of the Atlantic Coast, by making appropriations to "enable authorities to cope with the disease, where practicable." One resolution asks Congress to appropriate $60,000 for the Government coöperation. Two opposing points of view were manifest in the first session of the congress. Delay was advocated by Prof. W. A. Murrill of New York, who asserted that public money could be saved by allowing active field work to wait upon further scientific investigation; but for the policy of immediate extirpation of affected trees, to prevent further spread of the destructive blight, I. C. Williams, deputy forestry commissioner of Pennsylvania, stood sponsor. The results already obtained by this method in that State led to the endorsement of its militant policy by the congress.

The movement to erect a memorial to Whittier in the national capital calls attention to an odd diversity between our professions and practice. At bottom, we are a peaceable people, with a jealous preference for the supremacy of the civil power over all matters of the army

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and navy. But when we look around for distinguished citizens to whom monuments may appropriately be erected, we are strangely beset by the notion that such persons must belong to one of two classes. They must be either dead politicians, and therefore presumably statesmen, or heroes of battle. The exceptions are just numerous enough to emphasize the rule. Longfellow now breaks the monotony of the long series of statues to "public" men in Washington, but there is no reason why his memorial should not be supplemented by those of several other men and women who have raised our national reputation by what they have written rather than by what they done.

Secretary Knox striking an appropriate attitude at Panama and bidding all Central and South America stop, look, and listen to the honeyed words in which their big neighbor at the North once more strives to express its feelings towards them, will be a sight for gods and men—and Mr. Dooley. "Here," the Secretary may begin with a smile, "we meet on common ground—that is, of course, if the Government which I have the honor to represent does not decide to discriminate against you in the matter of tolls. The one subject of possible disagreement between the United States and any of you having been happily removed by the—er—annexation of this fair land, my Government feels very strongly that it is a part of the patriotic duty of every citizen of a Central or South American republic, especially of those in authority, to let bygones be bygones, to accept our protestations of goodwill at their face value, and, in a word, to think of us as we would fain be thought of." At this point the cheering will doubtless no longer be restrained, unless Col. Goethals should meanwhile have taken a leaf from Nicaragua's book, and given orders prohibiting any demonstrations, favorable or otherwise, in connection with the Secretary's visit.

The first bye-election in Canada since last year's overwhelming Liberal defeat has resulted in a gain for the Liberals, which is quite in accordance with the law that seems to govern bye-elections. It is the regular thing that, after a general campaign in which the country has plumped with unrestrained enthusiasm for one party or another, the voters shall turn about, and right on the heels of election day begin to elect members of the minority. Apparently, there is about this procedure something of the shame-faced awakening to cold wisdom which follows an emotional outburst. Certainly some such reaction was to be looked for in Canada, where a spontaneous assertion of unsuspected popular sentiment made fools out of the prophets in both parties. No one has yet been able to bring out all the reasons for that mad rush in which the Liberal party was so badly trampled. Partial explanations are at hand in plenty, but at bottom we seem to be facing one of those curious manifestations of the psychology of the crowd which make the business of political prophecy so hazardous.

The figure of George V has gradually emerged during the hopeful discussions regarding the betterment of Anglo-German relations. A German newspaper of standing assigns credit to the English monarch for taking the initiative in Mr. Haldane's visit to Berlin. There is nothing improbable in the hypothesis. It would be quite appropriate that King George should take up a line of activity in which Edward VII is conceded to have done useful work for his country. The late King was largely instrumental in forging the chain of Continental friendships and alliances which Germany chose to regard as a menace to her own interests, but which, there is good reason to believe, Edward VII regarded sincerely as working for the peace of Europe. The sphere of foreign affairs is one in which a British monarch, for all his complete subordination to Constitutional forms, still exercises real power. Unlike the late King, who was his own travelling ambassador, and whose personality made him welcome in the capitals of Europe, George V chooses to work through his Ministers; but there is every reason to believe that the monarch's views will carry weight with the Cabinet.

The bill providing for the annexation of Tripoli and Cyrenaica was passed in the Italian Chamber of Deputies last Friday with only thirty-eight dissenting votes in a poll of 469, and amidst scenes of frenzied popular enthusiasm. From the first it has been apparent that, with the exception of the revolutionary Socialist faction, the attack on Tripoli had popular approval behind it, in the sense that the men who engineered the raid could count on certain conditions of public sentiment. The Italian people has watched the annexation game being played on all sides, by France and Spain in Morocco, by Austria in the Balkans, by Russia and Great Britain in the Far East. The memory of Italy's own sad experiences in Abyssinia has rankled. National sentiment has been raised to a climax by the celebration of the semi-centennial of Italian unity. No politician was taking undue risk in planning an attack upon a defenceless foreign province under such circumstances. The only danger lay in the actual course of military operations. A serious setback would have been fatal to the Cabinet. A crushing defeat might have been fatal to the throne. So far these dangers have been averted, but the Government will still have to deal with the problems arising out of the heavy taxation that is the corollary of Imperialist politics, and is beginning to be in Europe a fruitful source of popular discontent.

Mr. Shuster's statement to the press is not so careful in its wording as his speeches in England and elsewhere on his way home from Teheran. At any rate, it is overstating the point to accuse Great Britain of having set out "to create a strong Russia after the Japanese war." It was not within England's power nor for her best interests to create a strong Russia. That Empire's recuperation from the disasters of the Manchurian war was a natural and inevitable process. What does remain true is that the present directors of English foreign policy have attached so much importance to Russia's friendship in Europe that they have been willing to let the Czar have virtually a free hand in middle Asia. That is a policy of which the wisdom as well as the morality may be easily questioned. Russia as an ally or a friend is a weak reed to lean upon. The French found that out again and again in the course of recent complications with Germany. And England, too, may discover, in time of crisis, that Russia's friendship was not worth the sacrifice of important interests in Persia or the cold-blooded abandonment of that country to the tender mercies of the Czar.

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THE "HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY."

Mr. Roosevelt declares that he realizes "to the full" the "heavy responsibility" which he assumes in announcing that he will be a candidate for the Presidency. But does he? Can he be entirely aware of the full weight of the grievous burden which he is binding on his own back? We doubt it. We should hate to think, for example, that he had deliberately considered and coolly disregarded the fact that he was about to shatter the ideal of Roosevelt which has been admiringly, however mistakenly, cherished all over the country. For in that ideal one element has been the conception of him as a man fit to stand on the holy hill because he sweareth to his own hurt and changeth not. But now he is seen to be false to his plighted faith. What he had voluntarily and solemnly assured the people that he would do under no circumstances, he now proposes to do without explanation or a glimmer of remorse. Thousands of his truest friends have been vehemently asserting for three years past that Theodore Roosevelt was incapable of doing this thing. Whatever else he might be, he was a man of his word. But this trust in him he has now dashed to the ground. Instead of the ideal Roosevelt, we see a Machiavellian prince acting on the maxim that a "signore prudente" does not feel bound to stand by his pledges when they can be turned against him, or when his motive for making them no longer exists.

To multitudes throughout the land this will seem a fall like Lucifer's, that other son of the morning. It is not now a question of the validity of the tradition against a third term. It is merely a question of Theodore Roosevelt's personal honor. Others may doubt or challenge the third-term custom; he cannot. He publicly pronounced it "wise," declared that he felt bound by it, and told the people who had just elected him President: "Under no circumstances will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination." John Morley was a guest at the White House when President Roosevelt made that announcement on November 8, 1904. The story was printed at the time that Mr. Roosevelt said to Morley that his declaration had "no string" to it. The Englishman was puzzled by this bit of American slang. Now, however, Honest John will understand what it means. The "string" has been pulled and the word broken. It is a terrible thing for Roosevelt thus to destroy the faith which credulous thousands have placed in his personal integrity.

The heavy responsibility which Mr. Roosevelt has blithely shouldered includes the confirming of the worst interpretation which has been put upon his conduct for the past three years. He himself now admits the truth of what he has been charged with. In the light of his own statements, few can be found longer to believe that his course has been aught but that of a secret plotter. To undermine his friend Taft has been his passion. To scheme for his own nomination has been his consistent but concealed plan. What are we to think now of its successive steps? First, he was not a candidate and would not be. He wrote last year that any movement to win the nomination for him would be a "genuine calamity." He asserted that no friend of his could possibly countenance anything of the kind. Then came the time of his standing on his dignity. He would not do a thing or say a word. After that came the period of contingencies. Roosevelt would not lift his hand, but, of course, if the united voice of a mighty people summoned him as the "one man in sight," he could not refuse. But presently even those professed hesitations and scruples were abandoned: the Columbus address was an open bid for the Presidency; and now comes his acceptance of the first formal proposal that he be a candidate for the nomination—an acceptance tantamount to a frank avowal that he wants the Presidency consumedly and will move heaven and earth to get it. What a light all this throws upon the long and despicable intrigue in which this frankest and most generous of men has for months been up to his neck!

Another aspect of the heavy responsibility which Mr. Roosevelt light-heartedly assumes is that of splitting asunder the party which has showered honors upon him and to which he has professed gratitude and devotion. To dash it to pieces now is but a trifle for his insatiate ambition. He has delayed so long in coming out from his cover that a fierce contest within the party is to-day inevitable. In the struggle the organization may be crumpled into a heap, the party principles may be trampled upon, undying bitterness and rancor may be developed, Republican hopes may visibly turn to ashes—but what does this matter to the man who is so eaten up of selfishness and conceit that he thinks of all men and of all parties as only tools in his hand, to be used as long as convenient and then thrown on the junk heap?

The heaviest part of the responsibility which Mr. Roosevelt undertakes goes, however, beyond persons or parties. It touches the good of the country. At the moment when success was about to reward the painful striving of finance and industry to recover from the heavy blows they have suffered, when business men were reporting the disturbance of Presidential year to be less than was feared, Mr. Roosevelt invites us to plunge into a vast upheaval. He would call upon all the winds of social passion to blow and crack their cheeks. He would give us a series of explosions, and would precipitate a contest that would shake the land. If he has his way, instead of slow recuperation we shall have a period of fear and ferocity, of unscrupulous appeal and incendiary tactics. But it is not to be believed that he is going to have his way. Even if he terrorizes or tricks the Republican Convention into nominating him, or if he sets himself up as the independent candidate of all the discontented, he has the sober sense of the mass of his countrymen to reckon with, and upon that he cannot again impose. For it is no more the Roosevelt of old going forth in shining armor to overthrow his opponents. He is known better now; troops of friends are walking backward from him with averted gaze; his reckless craving for power is at last disclosed. What was said of Charles Fox, after he had made a betrayal of his friends and his party, may now be said of Theodore Roosevelt: "He felt that he had done something that required defence; the mouth still spoke great things, but the swell of soul was no more."

THE PRESIDENT ON POST-OFFICE QUESTIONS.

Besides the second-class postage rate question, the President, in his message on post-office matters, comments on several other topics of importance. Naturally enough, he gives a conspicuous place to the fact that for the fiscal year

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which ended on June 30 last the accounts of the Post Office Department show a slight surplus—$219,000—compared with a deficit of more than $17,000,000 two years before. He is careful to state that this financial gain has been accomplished without curtailing the service, and indeed in the face of a considerable enlargement both of postal facilities and of salaries; moreover, there has been an increase of more than 8,000 in the number of employees. Of course, these things could not have been simultaneously possible without a combination of improved management and expanded revenue. As a matter of fact, the revenues increased by $8,000,000 in the last year, and by $13,000,000 in the last but one; but this is less than the usual biennial increase, and accordingly it seems fair to set down the bettered financial showing, in the main, to improvements in administration.

From the Postmaster-General's recommendation that the Government shall acquire the telegraph system of the country and operate it as part of its postal business, the President flatly dissents. The reasons he assigns for this conclusion will, we make no doubt, command general approval. Unless a perfectly clear case can be made out of great public advantage, it is evident that such a change is not entitled to serious consideration as a practical proposal. So far from thinking that such a case has been made out, the President is "not satisfied from any evidence that if these properties were taken over by the Government they could be managed any more economically or any more efficiently, or that this would enable the Government to furnish service at any smaller rate than the public are now required to pay by private companies." After this, it is not necessary for the President at this time to dwell on the seriousness of enlarging by hundreds of thousands the army of Government employees, though he makes it plain enough that this consideration weighs heavily with him. But he points out another consideration which constitutes a special reason for not entering upon this undertaking, over and above the general presumption against it; namely, that the Department has now on its hands, and very far from solution, a problem with which it is clearly called upon to deal before any new complication is added. In the matter of a parcels post, we are far behind other countries, nor is this convenience satisfactorily furnished by any private agency.

In his recommendation as to rates for second-class matter, the President simply follows the report of the special Commission, consisting of Supreme Court Justice Hughes, President Lowell of Harvard, and Mr. H. A. Wheeler, president of the Chicago Association of Commerce. So far as regards the matters of fact involved, there is no room for doubting the substantial accuracy of the results reached by the Commission, for the methods pursued are set forth with exemplary completeness and lucidity in its reports. Its plan that the general rate for magazines and newspapers mailed by publishers and news agents should be increased from one cent a pound to two cents is adopted by the President as his own recommendation to Congress. This plan, the Commission explicitly states, is not based on any consideration of an existing deficit, but on the desire to bring the charges for this service more nearly into correspondence with cost. The basis of calculation is that, in estimating cost, each part of the service must be charged with its proportionate share and not as a merely residual factor. On such a basis the cost directly assignable to the handling of pound-rate matter, exclusive of general post-office expenses, has recently been more than six cents a pound, and will in the future be in excess of five cents a pound. Whether the public objects served by encouraging the dissemination of this matter warrants a subvention so great as this is a question of public policy which Congress must settle; the Commission and the President emphatically hold that a two-cent rate would meet all reasonable requirements of the case; and it is hardly fitting that organs of public opinion, which have a direct pecuniary interest in the question, should press a contrary view. The facts relating to cost are now before the country in an authoritative form.

The whole matter affords an instructive illustration of the problems involved in governmental rate-fixing. The ascertainment of facts is necessarily only one part of the question; the question of policy still remains, and there is no way of getting rid of it. Indeed, the question of policy may be said to enter, and in a highly important way, even into that part of the task which relates exclusively to the ascertainment of facts; in this instance, for example, the result would have been materially different if an estimate had been made not of the proportionate cost of handling second-class matter, but of what may be called the residual cost—the amount added to the cost to which the Government would be put if this matter were not carried at all. But, waiving this, and accepting the estimate of cost as conclusive, there are still any number of questions of policy. Shall newspapers, with their average haul of 255 miles, pay the same rate as magazines with an average of 707 miles? Shall there be a zone system? What attitude should be taken with regard to the competition of private transportation agencies? All this apart from the three principal questions—how far shall the rate be fixed with a view to making the second-class service self-supporting, to what extent should consideration for established interests be taken into account, and what weight should be given to the public benefit derived from encouragement of journalistic activities? The rate recommended by the Commission is necessarily in the nature of a compromise; whether it is the best or not is, after all, a question for individual judgment. And what is true of this simple question would be true of the myriads of questions that would arise in the administration of a Government railway system. Those who lightly advocate the assumption of such a task by the Government forget that in this country transportation questions play a part incomparably more vital than in any other country in the world.

NEW IDEAS IN TRUST LEGISLATION.

Several incidents of the past few days indicate a somewhat new turn in the controversy over control of combinations in restraint of trade. The experience of the promoters of the so-called "Money Trust inquiry" has itself been pretty significant. The overwhelming defeat, in the House Democratic caucus of three weeks ago, of the proposal for a special committee with instructions which should take the results of its inquiry for granted, and whose avowed purpose should be that of spectacular agitation, was one indication of the feeling of sober legisla-

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tors. Both parties to the controversy, however, appeared to misunderstand the purport of the Underwood resolution adopted by that caucus. The agitators proclaimed that the reference of the inquiry to the Banking and Currency Committee meant the stifling of all investigation, and in some quarters of the outside business community a rather similar conclusion seemed to be drawn. Such inferences were unwarranted. The Banking Committee's subsequent proposal to investigate "the banking and currency conditions of the country, for the purpose of determining what legislation is needed," did indeed broaden the field of inquiry; but it excluded none of the specific questions proposed in the defeated Henry resolution, and, indeed, Mr. Underwood himself, when asked in the caucus whether his own resolution contemplated inquiry into those specific topics, replied that he so understood it.

There was, therefore, no ground whatever for the assertion, in some of Saturday's Washington dispatches, that the formal inclusion of the Henry inquiries in the programme of the Banking Committee was a "victory for the radicals" or a "new turn in the situation." So far as we are aware, no Congressman has opposed an investigation of the "Money Trust" with a view to answering just those questions about concentrated control of banking resources, discrimination in loans, or favoritism to one set of corporations. The real attitude of the House was thus expressed on Saturday, in a speech on the resolution by Mr. Vreeland, a conservative New York Republican:

> Mr. Speaker, I favor this investigation, not with a blare of trumpets and explosion of dynamite, but along safe and orderly methods of procedure. I believe in making it thorough. I think any man or set of men in the United States, who believe that financiers in New York have conspired against them or injured them, will receive a full and fair hearing before the committee.

Simultaneously with this move in the "Money Trust" investigation, the Senate committee has begun to take in hand the much-discussed question of supplementary legislation in restriction of industrial Trusts and monopolies. Last week Chairman Gary of the Steel Corporation, who has been insistent, ever since his Stanley Committee testimony of last June, for legislation empowering Government to fix prices, forwarded to Washington a proposed measure to that purpose. Judge Gary proposed a commission of three to regulate interstate trade conditions. A corporation engaged in such trade, with $10,000,000 capital or more, must have a Federal license, revocable if it undertook monopoly or restraint of trade. If it already controlled more than 50 per cent. of the business in its line it should not be allowed to buy up any competing plant until the three commissioners had decided that such purchase would not tend to restraint of trade. Finally, the commissioners "may fix the maximum prices of any products" involved in such an operation, "if, in the judgment of the commission, the fixing of such prices shall be necessary to prevent a monopoly or an undue restraint of trade or commerce."

The pith of this proposal is plainly in the last-mentioned clause. That scheme of governmental price-fixing is something of a retreat from Judge Gary's programme of last June, when he declared to the Stanley Committee that he should like to have some governmental agency where the Steel Corporation could go and say: "Here are our facts and figures, here is our property, here our cost of production; now you tell us what we have the right to do and what prices we have the right to charge." But the entering wedge of an extremely dangerous policy, pointing towards eventual State Socialism, is none the less inserted, and this fact is clearly recognized in the bill introduced on Monday by Senator Cummins from the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee. Mr. Cummins proposes a commission of three, with power, not of licensing corporations, but of supervising them. He expressly leaves the present Anti-Trust law unchanged, but provides in addition against the common ownership of industrial plants and transportation systems, against "community-of-interest" directors, against watered stock, and, especially, against the "practice of selling below actual cost so as to destroy a competitor." Corporations found to have been indulging in such a practice, or which sell to different customers at different prices, are to be excluded from the field of interstate commerce.

Of Senator Cummins's measure we shall now only remark that it undertakes, without upsetting or emasculating the present Anti-Trust law, to deal with the problem which opponents of that law have alleged must arise in formidable shape if the great combinations are to be dissolved. There has been of late something less of the confident assertion that "the competitive régime is dead," but in shifting their position the advocates of dominating combinations rest on the assertion that return to what they describe as the "old-time cut-throat competition" would utterly disorganize business. That some sort of protection against such a situation may be desirable, President Taft himself has admitted. For ourselves, we can see that the problem might be made more formidable from the mere fact that such enormous aggregations of capital are commanded by the present Trusts, and might be commanded by their component parts even after dissolution.

EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC SERVICE.

There is coming from the Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency a series of reports upon the administration of the various offices of the city and county. These reports are of a detailed and practical character, and at the same time are so simply and clearly arranged and worded as to be easily followed by any intelligent person. With one of these before him, the ordinary citizen has no excuse for not knowing far more about the actual working of the department to which it relates, and of the direction in which improvements therein are needed, than any one except a student or an expert could have known previously. Here, for instance, is an attractively printed pamphlet of twenty-six pages, entitled "Administration of the Office of Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois." One's ideas of the natural and proper order of topics in such a report receive a surprise at the first glance at the table of contents, for the "Conclusions" are placed at the beginning, and the "Text of Report" at the end. Who, however, could resist a look at conclusions so temptingly laid before him? This result was perhaps in the minds of the sagacious framers of the report, who were but too well aware of the normal attitude of voters towards the machinery of government for which it is their proud privilege to name the engineers and pay the expenses.

A second surprise awaits the reader in the opening sentence of the Report. "The present Sheriff," it runs, "is de-

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serving of great credit for introducing a system of reports and records designed to indicate the character and volume of work performed by deputies and bailiffs." Further on, one learns that "the attitude of Sheriff Zimmer indicates a desire on his part to secure the highest degree of efficiency in the administration of his office compatible with existing political conditions. He has shown much more zeal for public service than any of his predecessors in that office for many years." Evidently, the Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency is anything but an organization for irritating the gentlemen whose offices it investigates. After such words of praise, qualified as they are by the reference to "existing political conditions," can one imagine Sheriff Zimmer refusing to consider seriously any suggestion the Bureau may offer for rendering his administration worthy of more generous compliment? Nor does the Bureau allow its tact to restrain it from criticism. The Sheriff, it appears, owing to an increase in the number of judges by six, is asking for ten additional bailiffs. But the Bureau has made an analysis of the service records installed by this efficiency-loving officer, and finds from them that the work required of the bailiffs outside of the court-room is "inconsiderable for the number performing it." It recommends, therefore, the retaining of the bailiffs at the present number.

And now the Bureau shows the stuff of which it is made. The section dealing with this matter of the bailiffs is headed "Recommended Decreases in Staff." Here are the paragraphs in which the bold recommendations are set forth:

> The actual time reported by deputy sheriffs, exclusive of time unnecessarily spent in the office, indicates that the work could have been performed, and all demands have been provided for, with four fewer deputies. The Bureau recommends that the staff be decreased by that number.
>
> The necessity for an assistant sheriff in addition to a chief deputy sheriff is not apparent, particularly as the assistant sheriff generally is one unfamiliar with the details of administration and procedure. It is recommended, therefore, that this position be abolished.

One important feature of the readableness of this report is the brevity of its sections. Like a newspaper story in which we may not be especially interested, its successive paragraphs lure us on by the very rapidity with which they may be dispatched. The section following the one we have just been treating is entitled "Salary Reductions Recommended." Now, if there is anything calculated to attract the eye, and, still more, the attention of the taxpayer, it is such words as these. The report does not waste space or the reader's patience on preliminaries. "It is the opinion of the Bureau," it says, crisply, "that deputy sheriffs and bailiffs—except the personal bailiffs of the judges, twenty-five in number—are overpaid." And it proceeds to point out that city policemen, with a maximum salary of $1,200 a year, have as important duties to perform as deputy sheriffs, who receive $2,000.

It is difficult to see how any citizen of Chicago or Cook County, deserving of the right of franchise, can fail to be deeply interested in such a report as this. Its method disposes completely of the objection that one cannot understand what is going on between reformers and officials beyond wordy altercations. Here are set down, in plain black and white, specific recommendations, based upon careful analysis, with an equally plain statement of the reasons behind them. It is clear that we are going to tolerate with increasing impatience and protest the worse than slipshod management of municipal affairs that has given us a name all over the Old World. Mingled with this feeling must be regret that such a consummation should have been so long delayed. But the sordid truth is that first the fight had to be made for honesty. To talk of efficiency with a Tweed behind the curtain would have been anything but an example of efficiency. Then it is to be recognized that business itself, which, as any business man will tell you, has always been the incarnation of efficiency, has but recently awakened to the possibilities in this direction. It can hardly be denied that, for once at least, public administration has been quick to respond to the new spirit that was manifesting itself in private affairs.

LITERATURE AND MORALS IN ENGLAND.

The conflict between the British censorship and the advanced element among British writers and playwrights has been increasingly animated and confusing. The word censorship is here used in its broad, non-technical meaning. As yet there is no government official who exercises the same authority over new books that the Lord Chamberlain exercises over plays. But from an important section of the public has come, though not in so many words perhaps, the demand for some form of supervision over the printed book akin to the conditions under which the London theatre labors. Thus we have a case of carrying the war into the enemy's territory with a vengeance. While some of the leading men of letters in England are fulminating against the tyrannies and ineptitudes of the Dramatic Censor, a very respectable body of public men, journalists and publishers even, are crying out against the unchecked flow of demoralizing literature from the printing presses. We catch almost daily echoes of the controversy on this side of the water. Hardly a week passes that does not bring news of some play prohibited by the Censor followed by a round-robin of protest bearing such names as Thomas Hardy, H. G. Wells, Shaw, Pinero, Hewlett, Barker, and Galsworthy. Usually the prohibited play is produced before a private audience, as was the case with Eden Phillpotts's "New Woman," or it is put out in book form as with Zangwill's "New Religion."

The element of confusion arises from the nature of the campaign that has been set on foot by the opponents of what is loosely described as "pernicious" or "demoralizing" tendencies in contemporary literature. Before the Home Secretary there recently appeared an influential deputation of writers and publishers to voice the demand that the laws against the dissemination of "demoralizing" literature should be more rigorously enforced and that additional legislation should be enacted for the purpose if existing regulations are insufficient. The principal spokesman of the deputation was Mr. St. Loe Strachey, editor of the *Spectator*. Now the editor of the *Spectator* has been foremost in denouncing the ultra-realistic swing in contemporary fiction as exemplified in H. G. Wells's "Ann Veronica," against which Mr. Strachey carried on a vigorous polemic. He has also come to blows with the editors of the *English Review*, a publication of good literary standing and radical views, which is in the habit of describing itself as "the Great Adult Review." Mr. Strachey recently declared

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the Great Adult Review to be unfit for circulation among respectable people and ejected its advertisements from the columns of the *Spectator*. He immediately became a literary storm centre. Therefore, when the editor of the *Spectator* appears as the head of a deputation to speak on the subject of demoralizing literature, the idea that first leaps to the mind is that here is at least a clear joining of issues between the new realism and the advocates of that older standard of reticence in the written word which is usually described as Mid-Victorian.

But it is not with literature in a real sense that this particular deputation concerned itself. Mr. Strachey and his associates dealt entirely with that class of gutter print which the law designates as obscene and which falls under the jurisdiction of the police in every civilized country. It seems to be agreed that the English laws against the production and distribution of filth of this kind are regrettably indulgent and incomplete, and the Home Secretary, in his reply, promised that the Government would take up and deal energetically with the problem. Now it would be an insult to the entire generation of English readers even to bring the names of men like Wells, Phillpotts, or Granville Barker in connection with so disgusting a subject; and, of course, no such attempt was made. But it was unfortunate that this deputation against "demoralizing" literature should come at a time when conservative opinion is busy attacking the "demoralizing" literature of the Wells, Barker, and Shaw type. It was also unfortunate that the leader of the deputation should be a man who has been in the forefront of the assault on the modern school of British fiction and drama.

Thus if the unthinking public lumps together as "demoralizing" the work of the most skilful men in England and the products of the sewer, it is to a very appreciable extent the fault of much loose arguing on the subject by men who should know better. In the *Hibbert Journal*, writing on the subject of "pernicious literature," Canon Rawnsley is guilty of sad lack of discrimination. From the grossly indecent photograph or broadside he passes on to the moving-picture shows and so to the "nasty novelists":

> Women in this field of license vie with men in writing seductively and realistically, but with no serious purpose, what they are pleased to call the sex problem. These novels, some of them, the publishers tell us, have gone through a million copies. They glorify lust; they preach free love; they mock at marriage as a relic of barbarism, and appeal to pure animal passion and appetite.

Here is an unmistakable slant at the Wells novel amidst a rush of accusation that it would be outrageously unjust to bring into connection with Mr. Wells's art or his motives. It is a case of mixing up two widely different things in such a reckless way as to give the radicals ground for fearing that the two things are really the same in the eyes of these men, and that the present move against obscene publications may be intended as an entering wedge for a crusade against the new realism in literature.

The present outlook is that it will be some time before the subject of realism in art and literature will be freed from the confusion injected into the problem by bringing forward the question of the defence of public morals by the police. The issue will then be brought back to its original form: whether the present state of English literature demands the exercise of some form of censorship, either by a regularly constituted authority, or as has been suggested, by an agreement among the circulating libraries. The history of the English novel since its beginning weighs heavily against any formal censorship. It has in every age been the reflex of the prevailing tone of social life, rough and outspoken with Fielding and Smollet, sentimental and outspoken with Richardson, clean-lipped and sentimental with the Victorians. The danger of a censorship is that it intensifies the spirit of opposition and drives the recusant to extremes. The radical novels may have pernicious tendencies, but their evil, if evil there be, is different in kind from that of the pornographic literature that properly falls under censorship. They do not circulate by the million. They address themselves to people of intelligence, and in the long run intelligent public opinion may be trusted to deal with the standards and motives of literary men.

FRENCH BOOK NOTES.

PARIS, February 14.

Emile Faguet's "Vie de Rousseau" (Société Française d'Imprimerie; 418 pages) came out a year before the bicentenary of its subject's birth (June 28, 1712). Jean-Jacques Rousseau, in life and in death, excites the same perennial flames of controversy. For the general reader, for the beginning student, this life is perhaps the best yet written, the most likely to set him afloat along a true course. Emile Faguet is the full man whom reading maketh, according to Bacon; but he is also the professor of the great Ecole Normale where the clash of alert, youthful minds will not allow of too much inexactness. Besides his seat in the French Academy, he has some forty critical works to his credit, in literary history or literary politics. Not his least fitness for his present task comes from his studies in nineteenth-century 'isms. His standpoint, clearly and deliberately chosen, is that of French Liberalism, and is nearly akin to the traditional thought which alone has a right to the name of Americanism, as in Channing, who, in a way, was a by-product of Rousseau. With all this, Emile Faguet has an easy-going style, and says what he has to say quite fully. This means that his Rousseau is less precious as literature than the Conférences of Jules Lemaître, which set all these Rousseau controversies blazing.

In twenty-five chapters, the book proceeds by little groups of years through Rousseau's troubled life and still more troubled association with the lives of men and women around him; and a twenty-sixth sums up the life in itself. For, although the author is a critic of political philosophy and influences in history, he has kept here to the life of the man Rousseau:

> Rousseau, as he said himself a thousand times, was born good, in this sense, that he was born tender-hearted, generous, charitable—in a word, an altruist. But he was also born without any moral sense, and his education, which was null, or rather very bad, gave him none. I understand by lack of moral sense the absence of all rule of conduct *and of the need of having one*. Never did Rousseau have such a need. He felt that he was good, which was true, and he concluded from it that whatever he did could not but be excellent. This is precisely the state of soul of most men, but with most men it is mixed, and with Jean-Jacques it was absolute. . . . He has no moral sense, but little by little, as he frequents society that is somewhat better, he perceives it, seeks to deaden the thought by sophisms, at bottom suffers horribly from it—and this gives him a direction along two new ways: on the one side, to believe that, being born good, he has been depraved by society, which is half true, and to conclude from it that society is abominable, in which there is some truth also; on the other side, to believe himself obliged to repair his faults by the cult of

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virtue and the preaching of virtue. . . . He said of Voltaire something which was very false when applied to Voltaire and was precisely very true, without his ever suspecting it, when applied to Rousseau: "His first impulses are good; but reflection makes him perverse (*méchant*)."

Voltaire and Rousseau made the eighteenth century their own and a great part of the nineteenth, until the reaction came and spent itself, when they resumed their sway for the twentieth:

> Je suis tombé par terre,
> C'est la faute à Voltaire;
> Le nez dans le ruisseau,
> C'est la faute à Rousseau.

There are some new side-books to help us understand this wonderful eighteenth century. "Les Hommes de lettres au XVIIIe siècle" (A. Colin; 310 pages—3.50 francs), by Maurice Pellisson, is one of these. It is really a history of the emancipation of the literary man who, Carlyle said, is the priest of these latter days. From the documents of the time—many of them unpublished, from the Anisson Duperron collection—the author shows the relations of the men of letters with the law, Government, publishers, play-actors; in private life; among themselves (*genus detestabile*, as poor Rousseau knew to his cost, but already fraternizing in their own cafés and, under Madame Necker's guidance, beginning to erect statues to one another); with the world of the court and of the town; with public opinion; and (already) with journalists. There are twenty-six pages of documents in an appendix—and ten entire pages of double-columned index of names of men of letters cited in the course of this valuable book for the history of literature.

"Les Sciences de la Nature en France, au XVIIIe siècle" (A. Colin; 300 pages—3.50 francs), by D. Mornet, is, according to its author, "a chapter of the history of ideas." It really centres in Buffon, who was to his century something like Darwin to the next. The book is systematic, erudite. In a first part, it shows the *dépuration* of science or "natural history" before Buffon, in the struggle against the marvellous and against theology; in a second part, the organization of science in systems, the Buffon quarrel, and the organizing of experiment; in a third part, the diffusion of science in the triumph of natural history, its art of pleasing, and the consequences. There are twenty pages of valuable bibliography and fourteen of text-references. Dr. Mornet, doctor of letters and university professor, has written before of nature-sentiment in France, from Rousseau to Bernardin de Saint-Pierre.

"Les Moeurs et la Vie privée d'autrefois" (Calmann-Lévy: 390 pages—3.50 francs), by Humbert de Gallier, is a first portion of alert, capable studies of private life and habits of living under the old régime; and, naturally, it looks closely into the eighteenth century. The present book begins with "how they spent their money"—gentlemen's houses in town and country, and peasants' houses, their size, furniture, rent, comfort, and luxury; clothing, monsieur spending more than madame, and Queen Marie Antoinette in muslin and linen gowns (unavailing Rousseauism); and then hunting and gambling and mistresses and debts. "How they married" is explained among *bourgeois* (the middle classes), the people, and the nobles. They married more then than now; and, because the family was everything and the individual little, marriage was at once more serious and more businesslike, with love, if it came at all, following rather than preceding; but marriage presents and ceremonies were ample. "How they were served"—the treatment of the servants and how these treated their masters, those who were of the family and those who were only lackeys—leads the author to the conclusion that "the lot of domestics was better then than now." "How they took care of themselves," with all their healers and swift epidemics and still more sudden remedies, points to a contrary conclusion, in spite of every man being his own doctor nowadays with an abundance of patented medicines. This book also has a laudable index of names cited, eighteen double-column pages.

"Trois Drames de l'histoire de Russie" (A. Colin: 300 pages—3.50 francs), by the late Vicomte de Vogüé, gathers into one small volume three dramatic studies in Russian history, with its outlandish development of the eighteenth century. The tragedy of Peter the Great's son, Mazeppa in legend and history, and the lightning change of régime at the death of the great Catherine of the philosophers, are good samples of the literature of a writer who introduced the Russian soul to Young France, whose pen was dipped in Chateaubriand's inkstand, and whose own lofty soul was long supposed to have diffused the new spirit among his countrymen. It is not sure that his words are yet dead.

How Germany rebounded from eighteenth-century philosophy and *doctrinaires* is shown in "La Littérature patriotique en Allemagne—1800-1815" (A. Colin: 310 pages—3.50 francs), by G. Gromaire. It begins with the literary patriotism which was the legacy of the eighteenth century, and follows the course of romanticism until the fatal date of Jena. Then, year by year, the author portrays the consequences of that shock—Austria and the campaign of 1808; the revival of Prussia from 1810 to 1812; Arndt, who merits a whole chapter; the romantics now at their full; a whole chapter again to Körner; and then, from 1813, the secondary poets and people's songs. With 1815 the book stops, not because the patriotic movement of German minds ceased, for, on the contrary, it only then began sweeping the whole people within its train until the nation came into existence. But in 1815, "with the disappearance of Napoleon, the situation of Europe changes." The last verses of the book are from Ditfurth's elegy to the parting conqueror, for even after Jena Germans were found to recognize that it was Napoleon who had brought the Fatherland to a consciousness of self. "It is the beginning of the Bonapartist legend which has spread throughout Europe—not excepting Germany." It was Goethe's Epimenides Waking; and the French writer has the perspective needed to narrate it.

S. D.

Correspondence

WEEMS.

To the Editor of The Nation:

Sir: There is so little accurate information about Mason Locke Weems, the first to print the story of Washington and the cherry tree, that a summary of the facts which the writer and a few other persons interested in the matter have unearthed in the past few years may be welcome in your columns.

The date of Weems's birth, as shown by family records in the absence of any entry in the parish register, is October 1, 1759. The place was the family estate of Marshes Seat on Herring Bay, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. The next established date about him is his arrival in Nantes in 1782, as shown by a letter to Franklin asking for passports for England. In 1784 Franklin's correspondence and John Adams's show that Weems tried to procure ordination without taking the oath of allegiance to the British Crown. Finally an act of Parliament (24 George III, cap. 35) allowed him to do this, and he was ordained a deacon on September 5, 1784, by the Bishop of Chester, and on September 12, 1784, a priest by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

These incidents and Weems's subsequent experiences as a rector in Maryland from 1784 to 1794 have been well set forth in "Parson Weems" (Baltimore, 1911), by L. C. Wroth, to whom credit is due for discovering the dates of the ordination and for gathering considerable material from the manuscript diary of William Duke and the Allen manuscript, both in the Maryland Diocesan Library. These show that Weems early began his work of selling books, even before his marriage to Fanny Ewell on July 2, 1795, at Belle Air, near Dumfries, Virginia, which place became from that time his home.

For the period from 1796 to 1802 Weems was chiefly employed by Matthew Carey, and continued to be more or less so for many years, as is shown by the letters preserved by Carey's successors, Lea & Febiger. From 1802 to 1808 he also did much work for Caleb Wayne, who employed him to push the sale of Marshall's "Life of Washington." Much of this correspondence

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is preserved in the Dreer collection of manuscripts in the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

As soon as Washington died Weems brought out a small pamphlet on Washington and added material as it came to him, until in the fifth edition, published in 1806 in Augusta, Georgia, he inserted the anecdotes of the cherry tree, the seeds, and the rest of Washington's youth. Only one copy of this edition has been known of late years, and that, though in the possession of Paul Leicester Ford before his death, seems now to have disappeared.

There is no direct evidence in favor of the authenticity of these anecdotes. Weems, indeed, knew many intimate friends of Washington, but that he should have, as he says, kept the stories secret for twenty years is incredible. A better explanation has come to me from a grandson of Weems, who had it from his father. It is that the whole thing was suggested by a similar occurrence to Weems's eldest son, who was born in 1799. He cut down a Pride of China and confessed, but, sad to say, according to my informer, he received not blessings, but a sound thrashing. The seed story is certainly from James Beattie's account of the youth of his son, James Hay Beattie. Weems never regarded himself seriously as an historian, but as a teacher of morals, and knew that dialogue and anecdote were unsurpassed in driving home a moral lesson.

The remainder of Weems's material about Washington is derived from popular tradition in the South (especially in the vicinity of Mount Vernon, where he frequently occupied the pulpit of Pohick Church, as is shown by letters and by Davis's "Travels of Four Years and a Half,") or from well-known accounts, particularly the *Annual Register* and its plagiarists, Gordon and Ramsay.

The rest of his time he spent selling books throughout the States from New York to Georgia, and he died in Beaufort, S. C., May 23, 1825. He was first buried in Beaufort in St. Helena's Churchyard, but later removed to the Ewell burial ground at Belle Air, as was ascertained some years ago by Mr. G. C. Round, the present owner of the property, from interviews with old persons in the neighborhood. His grave in the southeast corner of the burial ground is still unmarked, though its occupant can well be called the creator of the current conception of Washington, and the author of the best-known hero tale in American history.

WALTER B. NORRIS.

United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, February 22.

COLLEGE ENGLISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: May I be permitted through your columns to add one more suggestion to the mass of variegated counsel under which college teachers of freshman composition are now almost buried? Most of the discussion has clearly depended upon the definition of the purposes of such a compulsory course in writing. No one can deny that daily themes do not create authors; but the Conservatives have replied to the Progressive—not to say Radical—Professor Lounsbury that nobody is trying to turn freshmen into authors. Compulsory composition is supposed to train students in the correct and accurate use of the English language. This sounds well, but the proof of the pudding is in the eating; and it is the almost universal testimony of college teachers that college seniors are in the vast majority of cases illiterate. A senior who had passed creditably in prescribed composition once met my criticism that a thesis of his was devoid of punctuation with the naïve statement that he had not had time to put in the commas, and did not think it mattered much. If prescribed work in composition can neither foster talent nor create competence, it certainly has little ground upon which to plead immunity from criticism.

But let us consider the problem which the teacher of college English has to face. His freshman students for the most part cannot spell. Their notions of grammar are often either non-existent or hideously warped. Their vocabularies are infinitesimal, and, which is worse, their use of the few words that they dare employ without blushing is so loose as to defy definition. In preparation for college—note the irony of the phrase—they have written a few perfectly meaningless little essays on "Dr. Johnson and his Club" or "Was Hamlet Mad?" Thus the whole business of writing English has become, not a matter of accurate self-expression, but a frankly artificial exercise of ingenuity, without method or purpose. All this the college teacher must fight against, and yet, out of respect for academic traditions, and also in consideration of the saving remnant to whom the English language has not become a snare and a delusion, he must make his work "advanced." He cannot line up his class and institute a spelling-bee; he cannot take as a text-book a primer of grammar. In other words, he must try to reconcile two irreconcilable elements. A German teacher who had his classes read "Faust" the day after they mastered *Der-die-das* would justly be condemned; yet it is with an equivalent amount of straw that the college teacher of prescribed composition is expected, in the absurdly brief space of a year, to produce presentable bricks. It is not surprising that, as a general thing, he fails.

No reformation of college work in writing can hope to alter materially these conditions. The change must come first of all in the schools; for though a college student may be in dire need of a primer, he is beyond the stage when he is likely to profit by it. When the schools can supply more spelling than grammar, even if Dr. Johnson and "Hamlet" suffer thereby, which it has yet to be shown that they will, the college can shape its work to the requirements of students who are fitted to pursue it.

HENRY ADAMS BELLOWS.

University of Minnesota, February 21.

A BAVARIAN SCHOOL OF HOUSEKEEPING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: As the train pulls into the little station of Miesbach, Bavaria, one of the interesting sights that strikes a stranger is the large red brick building standing on a high slope some distance away, and surrounded by trees and hedges which give it the appearance of a stately baronial estate. It is that of the famous School of Housekeeping, which graduates yearly some fifty pupils or more. The inside of this substantial-looking house shows its proximity to Munich, for the simple ornamentation, the tastful coloring, and the comfortable furniture bespeak its nearness to the great art centre of Germany. The school is fitted up in the most approved and modern fashion as to heat, light, electricity, etc.

The large dining-room, with its soft tints of blue and white, its numerous small tables, covered with spotless linen and the prettiest of silver and glass, looks more like the dining-room of a well-kept hotel than of a school.

The kitchens are spacious, immaculate in their white tiling, and fitted up with every possible convenience. The preserve-rooms fairly glisten with jars of strawberries, pears, plums, grape-jam, marmalade, asparagus, beans, peas, tomatoes, sweet and sour pickles, etc., all grown and put up by the pupils of the school.

There is a practical and a theoretical course, both of which are obligatory. The practical course includes: (1) cooking, baking, and preserving; (2) washing and ironing; (3) housework, viz., bedmaking, sweeping, dusting, knowledge of the care of hardwood floors, and of blanket cleaning and summer storing; (4) flower, vegetable, and fruit growing; (5) poultry and bee-keeping; (6) sewing, dressmaking, mending, and repairing. The theoretical course comprises an advanced course in botany, chemistry, physics, political economy, and household-bookkeeping. The science of nourishment is also taught, as is a proper knowledge of the different cuts of meat, their average cost and weight, etc.; also "first aid to the injured" and how to prescribe for the simpler ailments in the ordinary household, and lastly the elementary methods of caring for the health and character of children.

The outdoor life presents equally wholesome and desirable surroundings. Here all kinds of vegetables, flowers, and fruits are grown, tended in the most scientific fashion by the pupils of the school. Lettuce and cauliflower, for instance, are grown under the large glass bells found so useful in the sewage market gardens about Paris, and the poultry, ducks, and geese are looked after with the utmost care and knowledge, the large result of which is a commendable supply of fresh eggs and marketable birds every week.

The girls take turns each week in attending to the various household duties; a certain number taking charge of the kitchen, planning all the meals, buying and paying for all the food, and preparing and cooking it for the whole school. Another set of pupils do all the sweeping and dusting, all the silver and brass polishing, take note of the condition of the floors, and see that fresh flowers are put in their accustomed places. Others, in turn, attend to the bees and poultry, and still others do the gardening. The instruction in sewing, mending, dressmaking, millinery, and embroidery is rich in results, and teaches method and thrift in buying clothes, and care in keeping them neat. Every detail of the daily housekeeping is thought out to a nicety, and as few maids are kept in the school, the pupils are made responsible for the proper and efficient care of the entire household. The indoor life prepares pretty solidly for

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the subsequent duties of housewife and mother. It is safe to say that when these girls have their own establishments to manage, there will be neither culpable negligence nor ignorance.

MARY PARKINSON.

Munich, Germany, February 15.

THE DEATH OF LYDGATE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: John Metham's romance of "Amorys and Cleopes," soon to be published by the Early English Text Society, gives us closer limits for the death of the monk, John Lydgate. Writing, as he tells us in his "Envoy" in 27 Henry VI (1 Sept., 1448-31 Aug., 1449), Metham regrets that Chaucer and Lydgate are both dead. As the Pipe Rolls give the record of the payment to Lydgate of his pension up to Easter, 1449, the date of his death should seem to be fixed between Easter and September 1, 1449. Metham lived at Norwich, and had been a scholar at Cambridge. As a resident of East Anglia, he is entitled to full credence on such a matter as the death of the monk. His references to the monk's work show that he was acquainted with the very latest production of Lydgate's pen.

So far as I know, Metham's evidence has passed unnoticed in print. The recent article on Lydgate, in the Encyclopædia Britannica, quotes Metham's opinion of Lydgate's writing, but follows the Dictionary of National Biography in retaining 1451 as the date of the death of the Monk of Bury.

H. N. MACCRACKEN.

New Haven, Conn., February 23.

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The pamphlet of instruction issued by the Department of State, entitled "Information Regarding Appointments and Promotions in the Diplomatic Service of the United States," provides that "the object of the oral examination shall also be to determine the candidate's general alertness, general contemporary information, and natural fitness for the service, including mental, moral, and physical qualifications, character, address, general education, and good command of English." But the candidate is carefully asked if he is rich, or whether he depends upon his earnings for his living expenses. The Secretary of State recently, at a meeting held in New York, stated that it was impossible for the Department to recommend for appointment in the Diplomatic Service any but rich men. It would therefore seem that "general fitness for the service" included, among other qualifications, a private fortune. Does it also include political influence? Civil service examinations are supposed to be conducted on an impartial basis and to show no favor. Perhaps, however, the backing of a strong Senator or two may be included under "moral fitness."

Again, the pamphlet mentioned above provides: "The names of candidates will remain on the eligible list for two years, except in case of such candidates as shall within that period be appointed or shall withdraw their names." But if a candidate fails to qualify in the oral examination—that of "general fitness"—he is informed by the Department that "under the rule" he is not eligible to further designation or examination, and that he might as well drop out of the running. This in the face of the provisions of the regulations made by the President, November 26, 1909. What is this rule, and who made it? How does it take precedence over the instructions of the President and over the "Information" issued by the Department itself?

F. W. K.

City of Mexico, February 16.

Literature

ARCTIC VOYAGES.

In Northern Mists: Arctic Exploration in Early Times. By Fridtjof Nansen, G.C.V.O., D.Sc., D.C.L., Ph.D., Professor of Oceanography in the University of Christiania. Translated by Arthur G. Chater. In two volumes, with frontispieces in color and over one hundred and fifty illustrations in black-and-white. New York: The Frederick A. Stokes Co. $8 net.

From J. Scott Keltie, we are told, came the impulse which led Dr. Nansen to the production of the *magnum opus* now before us. Asked to contribute an account of Arctic voyages to Dr. Keltie's series of books on geographical exploration, he accepted the commission and soon found himself involved in a sea of mingled myth, fiction, and history almost as hard to navigate as the dark, curdled outer waters of ancient and mediæval legend. But he has fought his way through, and no less an authority than Sir Clements R. Markham, in the *Geographical Journal* for January, has given him credit for drawing the veil from the mystery of early Arctic history, as he had previously drawn it from the mystery of Arctic geography. Confessedly not a master of the classical languages, he has called Amund Sommerfeldt to his aid in searching out and translating the numerous passages in ancient and mediæval Greek and Roman authors bearing upon his subject, as he has gone to Prof. Alexander Seippel for help with his Arab sources. We mention this chiefly as a suggestion to college and university history departments which are guilty of encouraging students to believe that they can fit themselves satisfactorily for "original research" in history with no broader linguistic equipment than a smattering of two or three modern languages.

Dr. Nansen has carried his work through with a noble enthusiasm. The whole story, he says, is a magnificent illustration of the power of the unknown over the mind of man. "Nowhere else have we won our way more slowly, nowhere else has every new step cost so much trouble, so many privations and sufferings, and certainly nowhere else have the resulting discoveries promised fewer material advantages—and, nevertheless, new forces have always been found to carry the attack farther, to stretch once more the limits of the world." The first three chapters are given to the ancients. Here Pytheas of Massilia, of course, towers above all others, though distance has unfortunately blurred the definite outlines of the tower, as in the well-known illustration of Lucretius. Little as the ancients grasped the possible meaning of his discoveries, however ready some of their historians were to accept his relations as true, enough has filtered down to justify Dr. Nansen in pronouncing him "one of the most capable and undaunted explorers the world has seen." To break out of the Mediterranean regions by sea as early as the time of Alexander the Great, and make his way to the Arctic Circle, coasting along northern Gaul and Germany, and bringing to the then civilized world its earliest first-hand knowledge of Great Britain, the Scottish Isles, Shetland, and Norway, was to set a pace which, all things considered, has not since been equalled. But the world of his time could neither mentally appreciate nor physically appropriate his discoveries. Dr. Nansen accepts fully the identification of the "Thule" of Pytheas with Norway, specifically combating the objections which Karl Müllenhoff raised against that view a few decades ago.

Later antiquity and the earlier Middle Ages made no real progress in northern research, being content merely to "chew the cud of knowledge that had been collected in remote antiquity," and that mostly at second hand, from the later Roman authors. The first mediæval contribution of serious import was recounted by the Roman historian Cassiodorus, but has reached us, unfortunately, only through the Goth Jordanes, in his "Origin and Deeds of the Goths." The information concerning the North contained in this work Dr. Nansen believes to have come largely from the Norwegian King Rodulph and his men, the reality of whose visit to Theodoric, King of the Goths, there seems to be no reason to question. The next authority of weight is the Byzantine Procopius, who had ample opportunity to gather first-hand information concerning the North from the northern warriors enlisted under Belisarius in the armies of the Eastern Empire. But we have not space to follow Dr. Nansen's chapters in detail. A point of prime interest to many readers will be his treatment of the much discussed discovery of America by the Norsemen. He holds firmly to the belief that such a discovery was actually made; but after his relentless wiping from the slate of all the well-known lore of "Wineland the Good," and other legends clinging around the name of Leif Ericson, one wishes that he had given a more definite statement of his positive reasons for accepting the dis-

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covery as a fact. The very name "Wineland" is an accretion of far later date than the supposed discovery, and all the tales of wine and wheat found in such abundance by Leif and his men are traceable to familiar legends of classical antiquity, making their first appearance in Norse literature only in the saga of Eric the Red, at the close of the thirteenth century. Readers of "The Discovery of America," by John Fiske, will remember the high historical standing which he assigned to this saga. "That document contains unmistakable knowledge of some things which mediæval Europeans could by no human possibility have learned, except through a visit to some part of the coast of North America further south than Labrador or Newfoundland. It tells an eminently probable story in a simple, straightforward way, agreeing in its details with what we know of the North American coast between Point Judith and Cape Breton." Mr. Fiske made no difficulty of identifying the "self-sown wheat" of the saga as Indian corn, and took this and the mention of the vines as evidence that Leif's visit should be located not farther north than Massachusetts Bay. But, of course, he never accepted the alleged discovery of "Norumbega," at Watertown, and his arguments against the theory of any actual settlement by the Norsemen are keen and unanswerable.

In Nansen's view, however, Eric's saga "contains scarcely a single feature that is not wholly or in part mythical or borrowed from elsewhere." For the wine and the wheat of the saga we are to look not to the fields and forests of Northeastern America, but to ancient legend, gathered up in the pages of Isidore of Seville, whose description of the "Insulæ Fortunatæ" gradually worked its way into the North and inevitably connected itself with the mixture of myth and history which lay at the basis of such literature as the saga of Eric the Red. Professor Fiske could not see why the part of Eric's saga which deals with Greenland should be accepted and the rest discarded: "What shall be said of a style of criticism which, in dealing with one and the same document, cuts it in two in the middle and calls the first half history and the last half legend?" ("The Discovery of America," I, 213). But Nansen remarks in a footnote: "The beginning of this saga, dealing with the discovery of Greenland by Eric the Red, is taken straight out of the Landnámabók, and is thus much older." But for the loss of historic value Dr. Nansen finds solace in increased admiration for "the extraordinary powers of realistic description in Icelandic literature. In reading Eric's saga one cannot help being struck by the way in which many of the events are so described, often in a few words, that the whole thing is before one's eyes, and it is difficult to believe that it has not actually occurred." Professor Fiske took this very quality as a guarantee of the truth of the narrative, which to him read "not in the least like a fairy-tale, but often much like a ship's log." But Nansen adds to the words above quoted: "This is just the same quality that characterizes our Norwegian fairy-tales: all that is supernatural is made so natural and realistic that it is brought straight before one. The Icelanders created the realistic novel; and at a time when the prose style of Europe was still in its infancy their prose narrative often reaches the summit of clear simplicity." Dr. Nansen clinches his extended discussion of the whole matter with a formidable array of twenty-two numbered paragraphs, but it would be rash to predict that "the last word has been said." In the field of historical argument the *clôture* is hard to apply. Dr. Nansen's views on the subject were uttered in an address before the Royal Geographical Society, in November, and any who have access to the *Geographical Journal* (December) will be interested in its account of the discussion which followed, in which the participants were Lord Curzon, Sir Clements Markham, and G. M. Gathorne-Hardy, Lord Curzon betraying the strongest signs of reluctance to give up any material part of the story of "Leif the Lucky."

Mediæval cartography, Arab geographers, compass-charts, the maps of Claudius Clavus, and fifteenth-century maps are among the various subjects which, along with accounts of actual or alleged voyages of discovery, go to make up a work which it is safe to predict will see no rival in the lifetime of the present generation.

CURRENT FICTION.

The Progress of Mrs. Cripps-Middlemore. By Gerard Bendall. New York: John Lane Co.

A Mr. Hugo Street, reviewer, makes his casual appearance in these pages, and leaves behind him at least one memorable utterance. His journal, he complains, is "literally inundated" with fiction, and he has been compelled to invent a means of relief: "If a book is slangy, middle-class, vulgar, we call it a little effort in the style of Dickens; if full of cheap cynicism and maudlin sentiment, a contribution after the manner of Thackeray; if the writer appears to have been to school, and to have a slight acquaintance with the classics, we say an essay in the well-known style of Thomas Love Peacock." From this unexpected conjunction of Peacock with Dickens and Thackeray, and from the evidence of the present book, we should say that Mr. Bendall has been accused of being "Peacockian." So he is, in a sense, and we take this to be a unique distinction in this day. He bears quite as close a relation to Peacock as Mr. De Morgan to Dickens, or Mrs. Watts to Thackeray. Why should not Mr. Hugo Streets be permitted to call attention to so interesting a fact? The group of persons who revolve about the bland figure of Mrs. Cripps-Middlemore are as carefully chosen types as the intimates of Crochet Castle or Gryll Grange; and there is no doubt as to the lineage of the suave, ironical style in which the story is told. The dialogue often amounts to discourse rather than conversation, and the range of topics touched upon is wide. But in one respect—and this gives the book its peculiar tone—Mr. Bendall seems to derive from an older master than Peacock, namely, the Reverend Laurence Sterne. "The Philanderers" would have been a good title for this story, if it had been available. These persons, young and old, involve themselves in an extraordinary series of amatory situations, with which it is not professed that passion has anything to do, unless as the man about town understands the word. There is a great deal of insinuation and double meaning—a method more provocative than calling a spade a spade, and less in accordance with the traditions of the English-speaking race.

The Heart of Us. By T. R. Sullivan. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.

Love-making in Boston, with excursions into a rigidly respectable Boston Bohemia of Temple players to temper the decorum of the Back Bay, supplies this tale with its somewhat slender thread of romance. Upon that thread is strung a deal of circumstantial evidence to prove the story's right to a Boston habitat. The evidence includes much talk, seasoned with learning in the shape of quotations from the Latin poets, and culture in the guise of allusions to more modern classics. There are hints also of a staid and sober philosophy such as might ripen in the precincts of the Common and take the air upon Commonwealth Avenue.

The hero is a young man of Beacon Street lineage, whose chief claim to the reader's interest is his possession of a soul strong enough to prefer banking to play-writing, in spite of having scored an initial success as translator of a French piece and a subsequent failure with a play of his own devising. This superiority to the weakness of lesser men comes very near losing him the love of an excellent New England young woman with "views." And there you have the plot and the story. An elderly mentor and another excellent New England young woman of the innermost Brahmin circle assist the development with their several gifts of experience and feminine guile, and the little party

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of Bohemians assembled around the leading comedian of the Temple company provide the lovers with a curtain-raiser and a finale to their own drama. There are touches here and there of something which might almost be life, might almost be charm—but just misses the mark.

The Believing Years. By Edmund Lester Pearson. New York: The Macmillan Co.

These are stories retold, in an altered form, from a series published in the *Outlook*. They are very real reproductions of the mind and activities of the ordinary small boy. He is not the boy of Kenneth Graham, nor of Robert Louis Stevenson, nor of Mrs. Ewing, but the unvarnished man-child living in a somewhat unvarnished surrounding, having feelings and experiences which pertain less to the castle-building, hero-worshipping child than to our own familiar little Toms, Dicks, and Harrys. The appeal is perhaps less to the lover of universal childhood than to the rememberer of his own. Any man who has hated arithmetic, has loved fishing, egg-hunting, playing Indian, or has saved his pennies to go to the circus will follow reminiscently the vacation days of Sam and his fellows. Here are photographs of boyhood as it used to be when one was a boy in a New England coast town—a boyhood not unconcerned with knightly adventure, but having also largely to do with strange messes cooked out of doors, with wriggling moist treasures, and experimental buryings and up-diggings. The stories are pleasantly told, simply, with a twinkle of the eye and with a climactic prick at the end of each one.

The Toll Bar. By J. E. Buckrose. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Whether of earlier or later origin, this is a disappointing story from the author of "Down Our Street." The rich and quiet humor, the tenderness, the simplicity of that delightful book are altogether lacking here. Instead we have a melodramatic plot, rudimentary characterization, and a general straining for effect. The chief persons are pale caricatures, relics of a cruder age of fiction. Daniel Oldroyd, the landlord of the Toll Bar Inn, is an inhuman monster who cannot be made credible by the assertion that "he stood on the bedrock of things where men's instincts generate and mature while their souls remain in embryo." He is a mere bogey. And his wife, with her pallor, her impassivity, and her interminable patchwork, into which she stitches the substance of a lifelong tragedy, is at best no better than a stage presence. The young hero, Richard, supposed to be laboring under an equally tragic curse, is nothing more or less than a selfish young dream-cub, a paper-doll Hamlet. What if Oldroyd had murdered Richard's father? Richard need not on that account have taken to himself the rôle of emotional jumping-jack, at poor Alice Oldroyd's expense: his sentimental reactions become tiresome to the point of nausea before we are done with them, and we wish heartily that Oldroyd's daughter would send him about his business. But her part is that of the modern Griselda, and she plays it not without dignity, the only real figure in a world of not very skilfully manipulated puppets.

LIFE OF FREDERIC HARRISON.

Autobiographic Memoirs. By Frederic Harrison. New York: The Macmillan Co. 2 vols. $7.50 net.

Mr. Harrison sets for a motto on his title-page, *Vivre au grand jour*, and whoever reads his two volumes will recognize its fitness: for from early manhood until his eighty-first year, in which he completed this autobiography, Mr. Harrison has always been living in broad daylight. He has been among the first to detect and to welcome the currents of fresh thought and to enlist in the vanguard of new causes.

To epitomize the substance of these reminiscences would require a closely-packed essay: but we can at least indicate their quality. They are as frank as Mill's—an obvious virtue; and if they do not leave so deep an impression upon us as Mill's, it is because we never feel that the tragic conflicts of life ground as poignantly into Mr. Harrison's soul as we know they did into Mill's. Mr. Harrison, like Ulysses, seems to have habitually taken the thunder and the sunshine with a frolic welcome; and at eighty, he declares himself an optimist. He has seen the world improve greatly during his life-time: but he admits that its present lack of faith in religion is the cause of many evils, and that the growing disbelief in the family is "the most dangerous symptom of our age."

Mr. Harrison's method as an autobiographer is somewhat mixed: for he intersperses chapters of straightforward narrative with others devoted to special topics or general information. Thus he interrupts his account of his education, in order to discuss the reforms introduced into Oxford sixty years ago and to contrast old Oxford with that of 1910. So, too, he digresses into a survey of the Crimean War, or of India during the Mutiny, or of a dozen political and social issues. If this method, on the one hand, prevents a perfect fusion of autobiographic material, it permits, on the other, the introduction of much valuable material, such as his gallery of pen-portraits of Mill, Bright, and the politicians of 1860-70, or his paper on London life during that decade, or his description of French celebrities. All this would convince any doubter that the memoirs are thoroughly documented; and in addition, Mr. Harrison furnishes appendices containing sections of his correspondence, extracts from his diary, and even from his pamphlets and other sources.

As is often the case with honest autobiographies, so with Mr. Harrison's, the story of his childhood and formative years is the most interesting of all. Besides an unusually inquisitive mind, he had the interest that a healthy boy should have in unbookish things. But he preferred normal exercise to athletics. Though he began early to speculate on the ultimate facts of life, he seems never to have suffered any spiritual pangs, much less such a wrench as his elder contemporaries, Clough and Arnold, experienced, in breaking away from the religious traditions in which they were bred. Mr. Harrison became a rationalist, and, when he reached maturity, a Positivist. It is as the chief British disciple of Comte, indeed, that he has been latterly most easily classified, and these volumes will need to be referred to by whoever wishes to follow the fortunes of Comtism during the last half-century.

But although Mr. Harrison himself naturally regards this as the most important concern of his career, there were many others which will appeal quite as strongly to most of his readers. Without ever sitting in Parliament, he was behind the scenes in more than one political campaign. Politicians of both parties trusted him, and he had intimates among churchmen and dissenters, Roman Catholics and agnostics. By the accident of early schooling in France, he came into close sympathies with the French, and in middle life he more than once served the London *Times* as special correspondent on the occasion of French political crises. Especially interesting are his pages about the birth of the republic and the monarchist plot of 1877. Mr. Harrison had a way of turning up on the Continent just at the right moment to report a political upheaval. He kept copious diaries and wrote voluminous letters, from some of which he has drawn vivid passages. One might fill a page with bright anecdotes and epigrams. Gambetta's definition of Blowitz, for instance, is worthy of Bismarck's wit: "Il a tous les vices—il est Juif, Bohême, Catholique, et décoré." To which Blowitz might have replied that the Paris correspondent of the *Times*, if he would succeed, must be all things to all men.

These "Memoirs" confirm the impression that Mr. Harrison's talent is that of the publicist—or pamphleteer, as he would have been called in the Georgian era. He mentions some eighty essays, besides his lectures and addresses, and

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letters and discussions in the newspapers. His volumes, with the exception of his short biographies of Cromwell, William the Silent, Ruskin, and Chatham, are mostly collections of articles which first appeared in the magazines. He has displayed remarkable versatility, but that alone would not account for the impression he has made. While he has treated many themes, he has put himself into each essay. He has written, as he has worked, to promote great causes. His love of fair-play, his sturdy honesty, his belief in liberty, and his courage flow through all his writings. He has a refreshing frankness in giving his downright opinions. Even on the emotional side he is not deficient—witness his tributes to Ruskin—although, like many another Englishman, he usually prefers to show the world his intellectual side only. But it is his gift of pungent speech that has carried his voice far. He criticised English manners, morals, and men with perfect independence and more than cleverness: and that the English like, if it be done by one of themselves and not by a foreigner. He formed his opinions, as he took his views, at first hand, and always in broad daylight. His "Memoirs," like his varied tastes and enthusiasms, should appeal to diverse readers.

Addresses Delivered in the University of St. Andrews. By Sir James Donaldson. Printed for the University by T. & A. Constable.

The traditional English attitude towards education appears to be founded upon the conception that it is primarily a private matter, with which the state ought to interfere as little as possible. To care for it is one of the proper functions of the family, or of voluntary private initiative. Of course, the church early took a hand, but mainly for the sake of providing itself with trained servants. Thus its activity was directly comparable to that of the family in the same field. Scotland, however, looks at things from quite a different standpoint, at least since the Reformation. It has to thank John Knox for a system of popular education based on a conception of the duty of the state which is a commonplace also in America. When the state in Scotland disestablished Romanism, it naturally possessed itself of the academic ecclesiastical foundations, but in the course of the juggling back and forth from which that unfortunate realm suffered for more than a century, the endowments of the universities were in large measure diverted from their original purpose. The state assumed authority over the universities, and responsibility for their maintenance. But Scotland became politically united with England, and to the Parliament at Westminster, thoroughly English in traditions and sentiments, the Scotch universities must henceforth look for supplies. The result was lamentable. The Englishman held a different theory from the Scot about the duty of the state towards education, and declined to recognize that in taking over the rights and emoluments of the northern realm he had inherited responsibilities other than those he acknowledged in his own country. The Scotch universities were left to poverty and hard work. From this untoward condition they are only just now emerging, and that with but grudging assistance from Parliament, upon which they directly and willingly acknowledge themselves to be dependent.

The University of St. Andrews, the oldest of the Scotch foundations, has just celebrated with great scholastic impressiveness its five hundredth birthday. At the same time its well-beloved principal, Sir James Donaldson, completed the twenty-fifth year of his extremely able administration. As his own contribution to the quincentenary celebrations he has republished in a handsome volume the series of public academic addresses with which he has opened the successive years of scholastic work. In each he reviews briefly the history of the past year, and in many he sets forth with considerable fulness, and in charming manner, some item in the earlier annals of the University, or his own views about scholastic ideals of the present and future. The result is a volume of much more interest than a formal history could have possessed, because of the greater intimacy to which the reader is admitted. The American reader will find it unique in affording him an inside view of the wide difference of ideal, standpoint, method, and character between Scotland and England. Principal Donaldson's theories of education are most sane and virile, and much in point for America as well as for Scotland. Incidentally also the temperamental kinship between American and Scotchman, as contrasted with the lack of it between American and Englishman, can here be further observed; and much of the recent history of the internal development of St. Andrews is strangely like that of a New England college a generation ago. But no American faculty of equal size could measure up in scholarly achievement to the remarkable faculty of St. Andrews.

Political and Ecclesiastical Allegory of the First Book of the Faerie Queene. By Frederick Morgan Padelford. Boston: Ginn & Co. 75 cents.

That there was a certain amount of political allegory in Spenser's great poem, even in the first book, has, of course, always been recognized. A suggestion of Spenser's eighteenth-century editor, Upton, that the Red Cross Knight might be identical with Henry VIII as Defensor Fidei, led J. Ernest Whitney, in the Transactions of the American Philological Association for 1888, to develop the theory that there was a general correspondence of the kind just indicated. Professor Padelford takes up this theory again but carries it much further, inasmuch as he tries to discover in the political and ecclesiastical history of England during the Reformation the key to every character or incident of any importance in the first book of Spenser's poem—so that this book becomes under his interpretation a detailed allegorical history. To drive a theory as hard as this arouses in the reader a spirit of incredulity, which, we believe, is not likely to be allayed on a closer examination of the evidence. For, according to this supposition, in planning the first book (which alone is considerably more than half the length of "Paradise Lost"), Spenser set himself the task of inventing a series of imaginative incidents which should constitute a continuous moral and religious allegory, itself of an intricate character, and at the same time an allegorical reflection throughout of the historical development of the English Reformation. That he intended the first is, of course, beyond dispute, and it is merely a question of the second. Now, on the face of it, such a procedure is highly improbable. There is nothing similar elsewhere in the history of allegory, and the enterprise is one from which even the most heroic spirit might have shrunk. As a matter of fact, Professor Padelford, himself, breaks down at the Cave of Despair and the reader shares his sense of exhaustion. This is bound to be the fate, we are convinced, of any commentator who endeavors to hold down the poet to so complex and rigorous a scheme.

Spenser has told us that Belphœbe is intended to represent Queen Elizabeth in certain aspects, yet no one would maintain that much—perhaps most—that is related of this heroine has any allegorical significance; but, if this is true of a character of the later books, why should we expect such rigorous consistency in the first book, even though the allegory here is, obviously, more systematic? In matters so vague it is as hard to combat as to defend such identifications as those proposed by our author: Sansfoy with Wolsey, Sansloy with Gardiner, Sansjoy with Pole, Sir Satyrane with Cranmer, the lion with Thomas Cromwell. In the case of Sansjoy, as Professor Padelford acknowledges, the identification has little force; and there are serious flaws in that of Sir Satyrane, for Cranmer was not of illegitimate birth, and Sir Satyrane should have lost his life in the defence of Una, if the two were identical. Furthermore, whatever Gardiner's faults may have been, we do not see any appropriateness in applying to him the name, Sansloy, or "Lawlessness."

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The identification of Wolsey with Sansfoy of necessity rests on considerations of the vaguest kind, for the character appears in only one passage of eight stanzas. It seems to us, moreover, that if Professor Padelford's theory is correct, he is called on to supply the historical key to such minor characters as Fradubio and Fralissa, a task which he does not attempt. Finally, we do not believe that Spenser's appeal to the muse of history, apparently, rather than to the muse of epic poetry in the Prologue to this first book, affords any support to our author's thesis. In the introductory letter to Sir Walter Raleigh, Spenser designates the great epic poets, Homer, Virgil, Ariosto, and Tasso as "poets historicall." This reveals sufficiently his point of view.

Tennyson and His Friends. Edited by Hallam, Lord Tennyson. New York: The Macmillan Co. $3 net.

It is a matter of taste whether the reader will enjoy this collection of reminiscences as a whole. The present reviewer, who in general is none too squeamish in accepting the personal records of great men, must admit that his final impression of this work of filial piety was not altogether pleasant. Possibly he was prejudiced against the whole book by the opening chapter, which contains the Recollections of My Early Life, by Emily, Lady Tennyson. "You ask me," the writer begins, "to tell you something of my life before marriage at Horncastle in Lincolnshire. It would be hard indeed not to do anything you ask of me if within my power. To say the truth, this particular thing you want is somewhat painful." Lady Tennyson's instinctive repugnance is in nicer taste than her son's insistence. Her Recollections are rather feeble and should never have been printed. Certain other chapters contributed by willing or unwilling friends of the poet are garrulous or empty, and, especially in these days when his own name is somewhat under eclipse for the sentimentality of much of his verse, will not add to his fame. Two of the sections are made up of Tennyson's own poems on his Cambridge and later friends. It is somewhat significant of the tone of the book that "A Character" is not included:

With a half-glance upon the sky
At night he said, "The wanderings
Of this most intricate Universe
Teach me the nothingness of things."
Yet could not all creation pierce
Beyond the bottom of his eye.
. . . . . .
With lips depress'd as he were meek,
Himself unto himself he sold:
Upon himself himself did feed:
Quiet, dispassionate, and cold,
And other than his form of creed,
With chisell'd features clear and sleek.

That caustic portrait, we believe of the future Master of Trinity (one of the finest things Tennyson ever wrote, by the way), would have been a relief in these pages. We miss something of Thompson's own pungent and uncharitable observations.

But if the taste of the book as a whole may be questioned, there are sections of it that stand out by the solidity of the information or by the entertainment they provide. Perhaps the most purely interesting chapter is that in which Willingham Rawnsley writes of Tennyson and Lincolnshire. There are bits of admirable description in these pages, with many quotations showing how persistently (the fact was already well known, of course) the sights and sounds of the Lincolnshire wold and marsh recur in the poet's works. Nor have we ever read a better account of the families about Somersby visited by the Tennysons, or of the peasants and servants whose sturdy independence made so deep an impression on the poet's mind. The story of the old Waterloo cavalryman who served as coachman at Halton Rectory (the home of the Rawnsleys), may not be new, though we do not at the moment recall having read it before. At any rate, it is amusing enough and characteristic enough to be repeated:

Perhaps his most famous saying was addressed to my younger brother, who, when attempting to copy his elders who always jumped the quickest hedge opposite the saddle-room as a short cut to the house, had stuck in the thorns and cried, "Grayson, Grayson, come and help me out!" The old man slowly wiped his hands, and with his usual deliberation said, "Yis, I'm a-coming." "But look sharp, confound you, it's pricking me." "Oh, if you're going to sweër you may stay theër, and be damned to you."

The best of the character sketches, to our taste, is the long chapter on James Spedding, contributed by W. Aldis Wright—Spedding, "the Pope among us young men, the wisest man I know," as Tennyson said; the scholar who spent a lifetime whitewashing Bacon, and whose majestic head furnished FitzGerald with some of his best raillery; as in his letter to Laurence: "You have, of course, read the account of Spedding's forehead landing in America, etc." And if Spedding's altitudinous brow was the cause of wit in the letters of others, some of his own letters, as given here by Professor Wright, if not exactly witty, are solid and good, and in their way, as becomes a great Baconian, entertaining. We wish that Professor Wright had been able to give us more of the correspondence between Spedding and Thompson.

Other chapters of particular interest are those that deal with Frederick and Charles Tennyson and with the poet's friendship for W. G. Ward. In the letters of Frederick something may be observed of the mystical vein that ran through the family, and that finds full expression in the poems of Alfred quoted in the chapter on W. G. Ward. Altogether, as we con over the passages we have marked while reading the book, we are inclined to ask if our first judgment of the whole work was not too severe.

The Indian Tribes of the Upper Mississippi Valley and Region of the Great Lakes, as described by Nicholas Perrot, French Commandant in the Northwest; Bacqueville de la Potherie, French Royal Commissioner to Canada; Morrell Marsten, American Army Officer; and Thomas Forsyth, United States Agent at Fort Armstrong. Translated, edited, annotated, and with bibliography and index, by Emma Helen Blair. 2 vols. Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Co. $10 net.

These two volumes of approximately four hundred pages each are the last work of one who, during her life, had become known as a careful and painstaking student in a limited field of research. Miss Blair has here made available for English readers two important, but little known, French sources of information about the Indians inhabiting the Great Lake region, and besides these, two later accounts of the Sauk and Fox Indians, written by Americans. To these longer memorials there are added, as appendices, a biographical sketch of Nicolas Perrot; notes on Indian social organizations and mental and religious life, by modern ethnologists; and letters written to the editor by missionaries and other observers, "describing the character and present conditions of the Sioux, Potawatomi, and Winnebago tribes." The whole work is provided with long and scholarly notes.

The Memoir by Perrot, which was written in the years from 1680 to 1718, was first published with voluminous annotations by Father Failhan in 1864. Although it is not difficult to purchase in the second-hand book market, it is not as well known outside the circle of specialists as it should be, for it is a far better and more reliable account of the Indians than the more famous works of Father Hennepin, Baron La Hontan, and Jonathan Carver. Perrot lived for nearly forty years as *coureur de bois*, trader, and explorer among the natives, and came to know them as few men of his generation did. In his Memoir he treats at length of Indian life as it manifested itself in various ways, and adds thereto an excellent history of the wars of the Iroquois with the nations of the Lake region. The other French work is the "History of the Savage Peoples who are Allies of New France," by Claude Charles Le Roy, Sieur de Bacqueville de la Potherie. It is the second volume of the author's "Histoire de l'Amérique

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septentrionale." La Potherie's first employment in America was in the squadron under D'Iberville that was sent in 1697 to drive the English out of Hudson's Bay. The following year he was appointed to the newly created post of comptroller-general of the marine and fortifications in Canada, where he lived till family affairs compelled him to go to Guadaloupe. The second volume of his history only is here translated, as its basis is the lost memorials of Perrot.

The translations have been faithfully, although not brilliantly, executed. Miss Blair's long experience as a translator for the "Jesuit Relations" and works of similar character has fitted her well for this kind of editorial work. For Perrot's Memoir she has generally retained or else summarized Father Tailhan's notes, her own longer notes being reserved for the other documents.

The last two documents are of much less importance and of later date. The letter of Major Marsten, addressed to the Rev. Dr. Morse, was written in 1820; and the "Account of the Manners and Customs of the Sauk and Foxes," by Thomas Forsyth, bears the date 1827. Both are very interesting, and the latter is printed for the first time, but one wonders why such a long leap across the "sands of time" was made. Certainly there are similar accounts of the Indians of the Lake region, both printed and unprinted, which might have been found to bridge the gap of one hundred years, during which time most important changes occurred among the Indians, both in customs and their geographical situation.

The frontispiece of the first volume is a map showing the location of the leading Indian tribes from the earliest time until they were driven across the Mississippi. The making of a map to show the position of shifting tribes with large hunting areas over which they roamed offers great difficulties, which Miss Blair has succeeded in overcoming; but the notice of the reviewer is caught by some errors. She locates the Peoria Indians at Kaskaskia from 1700-1833, and on the Illinois River from 1768-1832. The fact is that they were at the latter place when Joliet and Marquette came up the river in 1673, and never removed from there until the nineteenth century. It is evident, both from note 19 on page 46 and the map, that Miss Blair has committed the usual error of identifying the eastern and western divisions of the Shawnee, for she writes of that tribe crossing and recrossing the Alleghanies, when the truth is that the western division moved only from the Cumberland River to the Ohio about 1700, and never farther eastward. The attempt to associate one division with the movements of both has unfortunately led to several curious mistakes in dates on the map. These do not seriously impair the value of the work, however, and the two volumes will be regarded by historians as a worthy and fitting monument to the memory of a faithful scholar; and the publishers have given the work a beautiful setting through their choice of paper, printing, and illustration.

Notes

Included in Macmillan's list of spring publications, part of which was printed in the *Nation* last week, are: "The Hill of Vision," poems by James Stephens; "Daily Bread," poems by Wilfrid Wilson Gibson; "Swinburne," by George Edward Woodberry; "Tennyson and His Friends," edited by Hallam Lord Tennyson; "The Complete Poetical Works of Geoffrey Chaucer," put into modern English by John S. P. Tatlock and Percy MacKaye; "Thoughts on Education: Chosen from the Writings of Matthew Arnold," edited by Leonard Huxley; "Expository Writing," by Maurice G. Fulton; "A Course in Public Speaking," by I. L. Winter; "Laws of Wages," by Henry L. Moore; "Essentials of Socialism," by Ira B. Cross; "The Governments of Europe," by Frederick Austin Ogg; "Initiative, Referendum, and Recall Documents," by Charles A. Beard; "Readings on Parties and Elections in the United States," by Chester Lloyd Jones: "The New Realism," by Profs. E. B. Holt, W. T. Marvin, W. P. Montague, R. B. Perry, W. B. Pitkin, and E. G. Spaulding, and "Outline of a History of Psychology," by Max Dessoir.

The following books will be published by Houghton Mifflin Company on March 2: "The Plain Path," a novel by Frances Symmes Allen; "Copyright: Its History and Law," by R. R. Bowker; "The Adventure of Life," by Wilfred T. Grenfell; "Socialism and Character," by Vida D. Scudder; "The Rolling Earth: Outdoor Scenes and Thoughts from the Writings of Walt Whitman," compiled by Waldo R. Browne; "The Boy and His Gang," by J. Adams Puffer, and "Improvement of Rural Schools," by Ellwood P. Cubberley.

Among the new books announced by Scribners are: "The Sources of Religious Insight," by Josiah Royce; "Suggestion and Psychotherapy," by Dr. George W. Jacoby; "The Abolition Crusade and Its Consequences," by Hillary A. Herbert, with a preface by James Ford Rhodes; "Courts, Criminals, and the Camorra," by Arthur Train; "Wisconsin: an Experiment of Democracy," by Frederic C. Howe, and a volume of verse called "Wild Oats: Moods, Songs, and Doggerels," by John Galsworthy.

T. & T. Clark publications, which will be imported this season by Scribners, include: "Greece and Babylon: A Comparative Sketch of Mesopotamian, Anatolian, and Hellenic Religions," by Lewis R. Farnell; "The Religion of the Ancient Celts," by Canon MacCullogh; "A History of Creeds and Confessions of Faith in Christendom and Beyond," by W. A. Curtis; "Communion with God: The Preparation Before Christ and the Realization in Him," by Darewell Stone and David Capell Simpson; "Christ's Message of the Kingdom: A Course of Daily Study for Private Students and for Bible Circles," by A. G. Hogg; "At the Temple Church," by the Rev. H. G. Woods, and "A Disciple's Religion," by the Rev. W. H. Hutton.

Little, Brown & Co.'s miscellaneous spring publications include: "A Handbook of Home Economics," by Etta Proctor Flagg; "The Boys' Parkman," compiled by Louise S. Hasbrouck; "The British West Indies," by Algernon E. Aspinwall in the All-Red British Empire series; "Pin Money Suggestions," by Lilian W. Babcock, and "Anomalies of the English Law," by S. Beach Chester.

Prof. William T. Brewster's "English Composition and Style," and Prof. Carl Holliday's "English Fiction," which latter is a study of the story-telling instinct among the English people and a survey of the English novel from the fifth to the twentieth century, are in preparation by the Century Company.

Messrs. Methuen announce a new biographical study of William the Silent, by Jack Collings Squire.

Gilbert K. Chesterton has written an introduction for the Rev. A. H. Baverstock's "The English Agricultural Labourer," which Mr. Fifield will shortly issue.

The fifth and final volume of Petrus Johannes Blok's "History of the People of the Netherlands," translated by Oscar A. Bierstadt, is promised by Putnams for early March.

In the list of Fleming H. Revell Company we note: "American-Japanese Relations," by Prof. Kiyoshi K. Kawakami; "The Battle of Principles: A Story of the Heroism and Eloquence of the Anti-Slavery Conflict," by Newell Dwight Hillis, and "The Stolen Bridegroom and Other East Indian Idylls," by Anstice Abbott.

Moffat, Yard & Co. have in hand: "The Blind Road," a new novel by Hugh Gordon; "On the Trail to Sunset," the story of a motor trip across the country, by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Willy, and "The Sentence of Silence," by Reginald Wright Kauffman.

"The Festival Book—May-day Pastimes and the Maypole" is the title of a book by Mrs. Jennette E. C. Lincoln which is now in the press of the A. S. Barnes Company.

Prof. Morris W. Croll has prepared notes and an introduction for "English Lyrics from Dryden to Burns," announced by Holt as a number of the English Readings for Schools series, edited by Prof. W. L. Cross.

The same house will bring out shortly "Language Lessons for Intermediate Grades," by Dr. Alma Blount.

The three memoirs which make the text of "Cambridge Under Queen Anne" (London: Bell & Sons) were already accessible in type. The memoir of Ambrose Bonwicke, indeed, was published in 1870 by Prof. J. E. B. Mayor himself, with this statement:

This volume is extracted from "Cambridge Under Queen Anne," which will also comprise visits to London, to Oxford, and particularly Cambridge, by Francis Burman in 1702, and by Zacharias Conrad von Uffenbach in 1710. The complete work is printed mainly for such of my private friends as are interested in the history of the Universities, and in the advancement of learning and science.

Professor Mayor never printed the complete work, but at the time of his death he had prepared a vast mass of notes illustra-

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tive chiefly of the allusions to Cambridge in these three tracts, and these, with the tracts themselves, are now issued by the care of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. To his task of annotation the editor brought the same patient and inexhaustible learning which distinguishes his "Juvenal." The result is something like an encyclopædic account of a host of obscure men and books, without neglect of some of the larger names. As an example of these biographical sketches we may specify the pages on the too little known and read Benjamin Whichcote. Nor are customs and places ignored in the editor's all-embracing interest. As for the three tracts themselves, those of Burman and Uffenbach are mainly valuable for the allusions and details which have instigated the editor's research. Bonwicke's memoir, written by his father, gives the pathetic story of a scholar of St. John's, who died early from consumption, to which excessive study and painful religion were contributory causes. Were it not for something hectic in the young man's faith (not to use the harsher word, priggish), we might think ourselves, while reading his letters and devotional exercises, back in the mid-seventeenth century instead of the deistic days of Anne. His difficulty in taking the oaths and his conscientious manner of evading their consequences are of considerable interest for the psychological student of history.

"The Public Library of the City of Boston" is the history by its librarian, Horace G. Wadlin, of the first large library established as a municipal institution. Its founders, therefore, are justly entitled to be called the fathers of the public library movement. Singularly enough the interest in it was awakened by a French actor, Alexandre Vattemare, who had left the stage in order to promote a system of international exchange of books and the establishment of free public libraries and museums in all countries. With this end in view he came to Boston in 1841 and explained his plan at a public meeting, with the result that a committee was appointed to consider the practicability of the scheme. Though some of the leading citizens pleaded for the library as completing the system of popular education, yet it was regarded, says George Ticknor, the Spanish historian, "by many whose judgment and influence could neither be wisely nor safely overlooked, as an experiment, promising little real or lasting good to the city." This opposition was gradually overcome, and the library was put on a firm basis in 1852 by the unexpected gift of $50,000 from Joshua Bates, a member of the house of Baring Bros. His reason for it is given in a letter to a friend:

> My own experience as a poor boy convinced me of the great advantage of such a library. Having no money to spend and no place to go to, not being able to pay for a fire in my own room, I could not pay for books, and the best way I could pass my evenings was to sit in Hastings, Etheridge & Bliss's bookstore, and read what they kindly permitted me to; and I am confident that had there been good, warm, and well-lighted rooms to which we could have resorted, with proper books, nearly all the youth of my acquaintance would have spent their evenings there, to the improvement of their minds and morals.

The larger part of the book is naturally of purely local interest. After tracing the development of the library and enumerating its notable gifts and collections, the author gives brief biographical sketches of the leading trustees and librarians, the closing chapter being devoted to an account of its present condition and method of operation. Including the branches it contains nearly a million volumes, the home use being more than 1,500,000 annually. One of the earliest gifts, it is interesting to note, was about fifty volumes from the city of Paris. The educational value of the library is shown by the fact that "four hundred and seventy-seven different volumes were recently consulted in one day by students from a single college." The work, which is the product of the library press, contains a map showing the location of the branches and reading-rooms, pictures of its three homes, and fourteen portraits.

Though the argument is labored, repetitious, and too long spun out, William Boyd's book may be recommended as a work of solid usefuness for one seeking to form a clear conception of "The Educational Theory of Jean Jacques Rousseau" (Longmans). Dr. Boyd makes use of the political writings, and the "Nouvelle Héloïse," quite as much as of the "Emile"; for, as he shows, Rousseau's pedagogy is everywhere involved in his politics. Indeed, it is a question whether, in the present volume, the politics is not the major topic. In one mood an extreme individualist, in another an equally extreme socialist, Rousseau aims in his theory of education, now to develop the self-sufficient man, now again the good citizen. The truth is, however, according to Dr. Boyd, that in both cases he is thinking of the small, well-harmonized social group, such as the city-state of his native Geneva, or, in his pedagogical theory, the family. His hostility to society is directed, therefore, against the modern nation, for which neither his social nor his educational theory is able to provide. Yet, with all his defects as a man and as a writer, he has performed an important service to modern education—a service more warmly appreciated in the preface than in the text—in being the first of a series of writers to call attention to the point of view of the child. With the passing of Froebel and Herbart, the direct influence of Rousseau came to an end. At present, however, we are witnessing a recrudescence of Rousellianism in our American "child-study," which Dr. Boyd thinks to be of doubtful value, with the exception of the writings of Prof. John Dewey, to whom he accords high praise.

Edwin J. Dingle, the author of "Across China on Foot, Life in the Interior and the Reform Movement" (Holt), is a young English journalist, who seems to have first determined upon a walk across China as a vacation ramble, with little preparation for the trip and with even less appreciation of its risks. It might be wished, since he has ventured into print, that he had taken the precaution to study his subject, if not the language of the country, before starting. As it was, he wasted a considerable amount of vital energy in the performance of a task made more difficult than it had need to be, and produced a result hardly commensurate in value with his pains. But time and experience are effective teachers. The traveller becomes less commonplace in his observations as he becomes accustomed to the people and the land, and at the end of an arduous year he is able to contribute information about them that is worth recording. In another book, which he promises to write on the aboriginal tribes of southwestern China, he bids fair to produce a work of serious interest, but he is likely to live long enough to regret the rather inconsequential character of this first effort. Mr. Dingle's pedestrian tour comprised the river trip of 1,500 miles by steamer and boat to Chung-king, and thence 1,600 miles on foot and horse to British Burma. It might be unfair to insist upon the misnomer involved in his title, but it deserves mention. Half the distance across China by road was enough almost to kill him in two illnesses brought on by hardships; had be undertaken to perform the other half in the same way he would presumably have perished incontinently. Throughout his long tramp he proves himself to be a cheerful traveller, fairly observant of the things which he can see, though not always inspiring confidence in the things repeated as told him by his "boy." His record has been compiled from a diary written on the way in 1909, without much revision and often corrected by foot-notes added a year later, which occasionally contradict the statements in the text.

Mr. Dingle's interest in the countrymen of China reveals a sympathetic nature. Like most visitors who take the trouble to get their point of view, he sees great possibilities in even the lowest grades of the people and is not repelled by their uniform indifference to filth and squalor. Indications of new currents surging in the life of these remote districts were visible frequently if not everywhere; but to the question "Does China really want the foreigner?" he is inclined to return an unqualified "no." Yet if change means progress, China is progressing rapidly, for every considerable centre he reached displayed the two signs which chiefly mark her departure from her old ways—public schools and modern military establishments. The former are hardly more than an advertisement of what is yet to come, a costly plant already well begun, but no educated class so far produced that is capable of moulding the opinion of the community. The Model Army already developed in Yun-nan impresses him, however, as being a thoroughly trained and equipped force. "The military academy," he declares, "would be a credit to any town in India; the discipline and military bearing of the troops on parade would be no disgrace to any native or foreign regiment in Asia; the thoroughness with which the Yun-nan Model Army is equipped with modern gear not only shows that the provincial authorities mean business, but that the army shall be in a position to put that business through." And what is going on in the capital, he saw in a lesser degree in other towns throughout the province. His opinion that the new army would remain loyal to the Government has already been demolished by the events of the last few months, but the spirit developed in these troops here and elsewhere in China ought, if his observations are trustworthy, to carry her through the crisis, when a real leader is found. Whatever the outcome of the rebellion, the forces of a militant China already generated promise no further submission to predatory foreign Powers in the future.

Egerton R. Williams, jr., has followed his "Hill-Towns of Italy" with a volume on

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"Plain-Towns of Italy" (Houghton Mifflin). His "plain" is old Venetia, and his limits are Udine on the east and Brescia on the west. He describes many of the places once famous but now usually neglected by the tourist, although they well deserve attention. Whoever would recover some of the Old World Italian atmosphere should pass a day at Bassano or Vicenza, or at any one of the dozen other towns to which Mr. Williams devotes a chapter. Verona and Padua he treats at much greater length. His method is to give not merely a sightseer's impression, but such historical and artistic information as a cultivated traveller desires to know. He writes agreeably, and has excellent illustrations. His volume ought to serve as a delightful complement to Baedeker for every one who explores the beautiful Venetian Plain.

The American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Mass., has introduced a broader interest into its publications by printing a compilation of "British Royal Proclamations relating to America, 1603-1783," prepared by Clarence S. Brigham. At best a proclamation requires some interpretation, and its time and sphere of action should be defined, unless those facts are stated in the document. The proclamation of 1622, for example, issued at the behest of the council for Plymouth, to prevent irregular trading outside of the council's patent in New England, had no effect, because there was not sufficient force to make it effective. Each document has a history, and it could be wished that the notes of the editor, judicious as they are, had been extended. The prominence of the tobacco interests of Virginia is shown by the eighteen proclamations issued before 1640, or more than one-half the total issued in that period. Trade regulation is the most important single subject treated, and the record does not show any undue interference with American affairs, for the measures were framed according to the commercial spirit of the day. Piracy, the apprehension of criminals, and the continuance in office of Colonial administrations receive attention. The proclamations for fast days from 1776 to 1783 are little more than curiosities. There are one hundred and one proclamations printed in the volume, a convenient compilation for reference.

An examination of eleven new volumes in the Home University Library (Holt) confirms what was said in these pages regarding the first instalment of these little books. It is a useful and interesting series, which now sells at the moderate rate of 50 cents the volume, in large, clear print, and attractive binding. The monographs are written by men of unquestioned authority in their field, but evidently with a minimum of general editorial supervision. This means that there is a considerable variety with regard to method of treatment. Not all of the volumes are primers in the sense of aiming at the simple presentment of accepted fact for the ordinary reader. Frequently the author chooses to develop his own views on a controverted question, and sometimes he does so in a manner that presupposes considerable preliminary knowledge. One advantage is that we have here a vigor and attractiveness of style that are not to be found in the ordinary handbook. G. H. Mair writes on "Modern English Literature" with ease and authority. His treatment of the subject is not inclusive, and, since he allows himself to pass judgment on writers of recent date concerning whom criticism is as yet in a condition of flux, there is room for taking exception to his opinions. But there is no doubt that his text stimulates to further study in the subject, and so serves its purpose. Another example of personal treatment is Dr. Barry's sketch, "The Papacy and Modern Times," in which the author develops the thesis that the Vatican has played an important rôle in history as the champion of the individual and the state against Cæsarism. Professor Myres of Oxford, in "The Dawn of History," studies historical evolution as shaped by physiographical and primitive sociological conditions; he takes account of the latest discoveries in Egypt, Mesopotamia, and the Ægean. Closer to the type of the ordinary text-book are the "Astronomy" of Arthur R. Hinks of Cambridge Observatory, England; "The Civilization of China," by Prof. Herbert A. Giles of Cambridge University, an intimate and comprehensive little treatise; and "The History of Our Time, 1885-1911," by G. P. Gooch, which necessarily fails to be comprehensive. W. M. Geldart's "Elements of English Law" is an excellent summary. So is W. F. Barrett's "Psychical Research," which sets out to be a survey of the results so far achieved by the Society for Psychical Research. Two volumes, which suffer from an overloose treatment of a vague subject, are D. H. Macgregor's "The Evolution of Industry," which is handicapped also by an obscure style, and Prof. J. Arthur Thomson's "Introduction to Science." Professor Thomson is one of the general editors of the series, and, with Professor Geddes, has written the fascinating volume on Evolution. Here we have a discursive treatment on the nature and implications of science which is agreeable philosophizing, but does not get anywhere in particular. The only American contributor is Prof. Frederic L. Paxson of the University of Wisconsin, who writes on our Civil War. In his preface Professor Paxson asserts it to be "reasonably clear to-day, that the South would of herself have discarded slavery in another generation." That presupposition does not interfere with his giving us a straightforward narrative of events.

"The Modern Railroad" (McClurg), by Edward Hungerford, depicts in twentieth century magazine style the human side of the railway industry. It has no concern with the railway problem. Its purpose is to give the reader an intimate knowledge of the everyday problems of the men engaged in building and operating our transportation lines, by describing in order the duties of the different railway officers, and of the various grades of employees. It is filled with anecdotes, significant statistics, and dramatic situations, and it is generously illustrated. While its vivid writing may have too great a tendency to surround with an atmosphere of romance what is mere commonplace, its five hundred pages contain a store of interesting information.

"The Civil War Literature of Ohio: A Bibliography," by Daniel J. Ryan, published by Burrows Brothers Co. of Cleveland, is a distinct contribution to the literature of Western history and bibliography. There are in all eight hundred and ninety-nine titles listed, consisting mostly of public documents, regimental histories, and ephemeral literature, such as speeches and sermons. The annotations are excellent and of such a length as to make it unnecessary, in many cases, for the student to go to the original. The editor has followed the usual bibliographical method of arrangement in alphabetical order, although the grouping into topics would be far more convenient for the student, and all the benefits of the alphabetical order might be put in the index. Three-fourths of the titles are taken from the editor's own library, but the list does not indicate where copies of the others may be found, information that is essential in the case of scarce and little-known books and pamphlets.

A second edition has just appeared of that fascinating and valuable work by Prof. Otto Jespersen, the "Growth and Structure of the English Language" (Teubner), mentioned by the *Nation* in February, 1906, before it received the Volney prize of the Institut de France. Although the substance has not been greatly altered, the revision has been more extensive than the author's modest explanation in the Preface might lead one to expect. The work as a whole has gained through slight changes of expression here and there, through fresh illustrations, and through occasional condensation. Several errors of the printer have disappeared, and, so far as we have observed, no new ones of importance have crept in. The book is now a little more compact, and the new type and paper make easier reading. In connection with the chapter on Shakespeare and the Language of Poetry, we may remark, as Professor Jespersen duly notes, that the whole subject of the diction of Shakespeare, as compared with that of Bacon, "has been investigated by N. Bøgholm ('Bacon og Shakespeare,' Copenhagen, 1906), who has succeeded in pointing out an astonishing number of discrepancies between the two authors." We recommend all of the chapters in their new dress to teachers who desire to attract immature students of language by means that are at once inspiring and safe.

Dr. Andrew Martin Fairbairn, for twenty-three years principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, died recently in London, at the age of seventy-three. He was Lyman Beecher lecturer at Yale in 1891-92, and was the author of several works on religious and philosophical subjects, among them "Studies in the Philosophy of Religion and History," "Studies in the Life of Christ," "Catholicism, Roman and Anglican," and "The Philosophy of the Christian Religion."

Mrs. Margaret Byers, doctor of laws, and principal, since 1859, of Victoria College, Belfast, died in that city last week. From the first she was deeply interested in all movements looking to the improvement of the condition of Irish women, and in due course became the founder and director of Victoria College, which has been prominent in all pioneer and educational work. It was begun as a secondary school before collegiate education for women was thought of. In 1878 she worked for the inclusion of girls in the benefits of the Irish Intermediate act. The college was a natural evolution of all that had gone before, when, in 1881, the Royal University of Ireland offered its examinations and degrees to wo-

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men. Mrs. Byers was interested in many forms of philanthropic work. But amid her many labors she found time for a good deal of literary work.

Dr. Joseph Ettlinger, who a short time before his recent death, in his forty-third year, was appointed feuilleton editor of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*, wrote a number of distinguished biographies; for example, "Hofman von Hofmanswaldau" and "Madame Récamier."

Science

Aerial Navigation. By Albert F. Zahm. New York: D. Appleton & Co. $3 net.

This book has unusual merit. It is popular in tone, but contains many important scientific facts related directly and indirectly to aviation, and cannot fail to be regarded as an excellent addition to aeronautic literature. The author is professor of mechanics in the Catholic University of America in Washington, and has conducted some excellent investigations on aerodynamics, especially concerning air resistance to moving planes, and the coefficient of skin friction.

In the historical introduction, Professor Zahm has a most interesting chapter on the Fancy and Folk-lore of flying. Ovid's account of Icarus, son of Dædalus, is quoted, and there are many other references to such legends, including the tales of the great flying bird, the roc. Among those who imagined the possibilities of the so-called Dædalean flight was none less than Leonardo da Vinci, a gifted engineer as well as an artist, who devised a flying gear for man which clearly showed genius. The devices invented are reproduced from Da Vinci's sketches. To Jean-Baptiste Dante, who lived in the fifteenth century, is credited the first successful soaring flight. The experiments took place at Perugia. The remarkable flight of the Marquis de Bacqueville in Paris over the Seine in 1742 is described. From the evidence available, it is probable that both Dante and De Bacqueville used some sort of aeroplane glider. The early history of the many forms of balloons and their fanciful inventors, which follows, is very entertaining.

Part I is entitled "The Growth of Aerostation," and in the first chapter is found a history of the development of the passive balloon. Progress in the science got its first real impetus from the discovery in 1766 by Henry Cavendish that hydrogen was many times lighter than air. Dr. Black, an Edinburgh chemist, suggested the use of hydrogen for balloons, an idea shortly after put into practical use by Tiberius Cavallo in the form of small soap bubbles filled with that gas. It was left to the Montgolfier brothers and to the physicist, Professor Charles, to devise the man-carrying hydrogen balloon. The balloons of the Montgolfiers were highly decorated and designed in curious shapes. It is said that the suggestion of the invention came from the Siege of Gibraltar, the possibility of escaping like rising smoke having occurred to Joseph Montgolfier. The brothers were rich paper manufacturers, but Stephen is said to have been an architect also. The passenger balloon designed by Professor Charles about 1783 was a truly scientific invention. It was twenty-seven and a half feet in diameter and made of varnished silk. After several successful ascensions it was destroyed. The adventurous flight of Glaisher and Coxwell in 1861 is described in detail, with a discussion relating to the height reached by these aeronauts. At an altitude of 30,000 feet or more both became almost unconscious, but they managed somehow to descend.

The early history of power balloons begins essentially with Blanchard's, in 1784, which was provided with a boat-like car having aerial oars. A number of the pioneer forms of these balloons are pictured, but it is evident that the real advance was the man-carrying dirigible, La France, of Capt. Renard and Capt. Krebs, in 1884. This aerial vessel actually returned to the starting point against a wind, the propelling power being a 220-pound electric motor which developed nine horsepower. Then came the famous dirigibles of Santos Dumont, which are described in detail. Seventy-five pages are devoted to the various gasolene-driven dirigibles. These are divided into two classes: the non-rigid, represented by the Clement-Bayard, and the rigid type, such as the Zeppelin.

Part II relates to the growth of aviation. Here again the reader is led back to the early history of the science. Leonardo da Vinci's fertile mind conceived three distinct devices for carrying a man in the air. Owing to the lack of motive power the early inventors, of course, could not navigate dynamic flyers, however ingeniously contrived. Da Vinci's first design, referred to in the introduction, is shown by a drawing copied from the original. It provides the operator with two wings manipulated by his arms and legs. The second design is a helicopter. The drawing shows a screw twenty-six feet in diameter to be operated by the aviator. It is quite obvious that the machine was never used. The third device was a framed sail, on which a man could settle slowly down to the earth. Thus da Vinci was the father of the parachute. The first use of the parachute is said to have been made in the year 1783, when Lenormand descended from the Montpelier Observatory by means of two specially made umbrellas, one being held in each hand. In this connection the author describes an interesting parachute found in nature in the form of a two-winged seed which grows on a tree in India. When the seed falls it descends to the ground in wide, graceful curves. Descriptions follow of the inventions of the Englishmen, Sir George Cayley and Henson. The latter in 1847-48 constructed a model which was supposed to be the first flying machine to perform a successful flight. Other early models are cited, including the aeroplane kite of Hargrave, on the design of which is based the construction of the box kite bearing their name, so universally used as the most efficient form. The work of Langley is illustrated with excellent photographs, as is also that of the unfortunate Lilienthal. Four beautiful photographs show the Wright brothers' first and second gliders and their first power-driven aeroplane, and there are some interesting stories of their experiments on the dunes near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Not the least interesting are the descriptions of the remarkable glider flights of the late Professor Montgomery, who was killed in California recently. In a hundred subsequent pages the progress of aviation is sketched during the past four years, much of which is familiar to all.

Part III is a discussion of the general properties of the free air. On page 349 a table gives the percentage distribution of gases in the atmosphere up to an altitude of 150 kilometers, which is taken from Moore's "Descriptive Meteorology." The accuracy of this table is questionable, since it represents an unproved theory only. The other tables are good, and there is much of interest in the hundred pages which deal with "aeronautic meteorology," for the author presents the subject well. The aeronautic letters written from Passy, France, in 1783, by Benjamin Franklin, relating to the experiments of the Montgolfier brothers and Professor Charles, are of particular interest. The last pages of the book are devoted to military dirigible balloons, and to aeroplanes which can rise from water.

Science books in Macmillan's list include: "Insect Pests," by W. C. O'Kane; "The Beginner in Poultry," by C. S. Valentine; "Farm Boys and Girls," by William A. McKeever; "Milk and Its Products," by Henry H. Wing; "The Training and Breaking of Horses," by M. W. Harper; "Forage Crops for the South," by S. M. Tracy; "Farm Management," by G. F. Warren; "Farm Poultry," by George C. Watson; "Poultry Husbandry," by J. E. Rice; "Plant Breeding," by H. J. Webber; "The Healthy Baby and How to Keep Him So," by Roger H. Dennet; "Food for the Invalid and the Convalescent," by Winifred S. Gibbs; "Stuttering and Lisping," by E. W. Scripture; "Who's Who in Science"; "College Zoology," by R. W. Hegner; "Principles of Human Nutrition," by W. H. Jordon; "Meteorology," by W. I. Milham; "Earth Features and Their Meaning," by William

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Herbert Hobbs; "Analytical Mechanics," by Alexander Ziwet and Peter Field; "Storage Batteries," by Harry W. Morse; "Elements of Statistical Method," by Willford I. King; "Anthropology," by Dr. H. Schurtz, translated and adapted by Prof. Franz Boas.

"The Teaching of Primary Arithmetic," by Henry Suzzallo, will be brought out by Houghton Mifflin Co. on March 2.

Edward Bok has arranged for the publication by the Fleming H. Revell Co. of a series of treatises on sex hygiene. The first three are now announced: "How Shall I Tell My Child," by Mrs. Woodallen Chapman; "When a Boy Becomes a Man," by H. Bissecker, and "Instead of Wild Oats," by Winfield Scott Hall.

The Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, which, on account of its work on the sun, enjoys the unique distinction of threefold location—in Washington, and on the summits of Mount Wilson and Mount Whitney, California—has accomplished much excellent work in the past year. Following up the work of the late lamented Langley, whose first expedition to the summit of Mt. Whitney was undertaken nearly a third of a century ago, Dr. C. G. Abbot, the director, has now made solar-constant determinations simultaneously at sea level (Washington), at above a mile altitude (Mount Wilson), and again at Mount Wilson, and at nearly three miles altitude (Mount Whitney). Although both the quantity and the quality of the solar radiation found at these stations differ very much, neither the "solar constant" nor the distribution of the solar energy in the spectrum outside the atmosphere, as fixed by the wholly independent measurements at these three stations, differs more than would be expected in view of the unavoidable small errors of observation. It seems just to conclude that we do, in fact, eliminate the effects of atmospheric losses and actually determine the true quantity and quality of the sun's radiation outside the atmosphere, as we might do if we could observe in free space, with no atmosphere at all to hinder. Also, Dr. Abbot reaches the further important conclusion, though as yet tentatively, that the sun actually varies from day to day in its output of radiation within limits of from 5 to 10 per cent. in quantity, and in irregular periods of from 5 to 10 days; and that the solar radiation comes from sources ranging in temperature, perhaps, between the limits 5,000 degrees and 7,000 degrees absolute centigrade, but mostly from sources between 6,000 degrees and 7,000 degrees.

Charles Robert Sanger, professor of chemistry and director of the chemical laboratory at Harvard University, died in Cambridge on Sunday, after a brief illness, at fifty-six years. Professor Sanger graduated from Harvard in 1881, and after graduate work there and in Germany filled the chair of chemistry at the United States Naval Academy for six years and at Washington University in St. Louis for seven years. He was called to Harvard in 1899.

Philip Rounseville Alger, professor of mathematics at the United States Naval Academy, died on Friday of last week, at the age of fifty-two. He was an expert in ordnance and the chemistry of explosives, and was the author of "Exterior Ballistics," "Elastic Strength of Guns," and "Hydromechanics."

Miss Grace Anna Lewis, one of America's foremost scientific women and widely known as a naturalist, died in Media, Pa., on Sunday. She was born in 1821. In 1869 she printed a pamphlet showing the relation of birds to the animal kingdom. This pamphlet was the germ of charts that she prepared later, among which were "Chart of the Classification of Birds," "Chart of the Animal Kingdom," and "Chart of Geology, with a Special Reference to Palæontology." She also prepared "Water-Color Paintings of Wild Flowers" and "Studies in Forestry."

Drama

John Galsworthy's play "The "Pigeon" will be published by Scribners about the time that Winthrop Ames presents it on the stage. Another play by this author, "The Eldest Son," will be issued by the same house somewhat later.

There was need of a monograph such as Mary Leland Hunt has given us in "Thomas Dekker, a Study" (Columbia University Press, Lemcke & Buechner). A certain sentimentalism which pervades the book betrays the feminine hand, but the work is thoroughly done and marks an advance on anything that had previously been written on the subject. As was to be expected, the author has not succeeded in bringing to light any new facts concerning the poet's life. The expression she points out in Samuel Rowlands's pamphlet, "Martin Markall" (1610), according to which Dekker is accused of employing "old words used forty years ago, before he was born," would not materially change the prevalent dating of his birth, even if we accepted it as literally true, which, of course, it is not likely to be. It must also remain uncertain whether Dekker travelled on the Continent in his early life, although his fondness for Dutch lends some color to the supposition that he once visited Holland. Owing to the dearth of biographical data, the book is devoted almost wholly to Dekker's works, especially the dramas. Like nearly all students of the poet in recent times, Miss Hunt writes under the spell of Charles Lamb's saying that Dekker "had poetry enough for anything," which certainly contains a gross exaggeration. For instance, "The Shoemaker's Holiday," which is probably the best of his plays not written in collaboration, possesses an undeniable sweetness and wholesome charm, but who would maintain that it moves on a high level of poetry? Our author criticises A. W. Ward's estimate of the poet as too depreciatory. We believe, however, that he was nearer the truth than Professor Schelling when he speaks of so formless a work as "Old Fortunatus" as "this beautiful play." In reading Elizabethan productions of this kind we feel that the much decried period of classicism had its uses after all—and not merely in prose. We do not mean to deny to Dekker, of course, a true lyrical charm and the capacity, which he shared with so many of his contemporaries, of striking off occasionally beautiful images and even fine passages of a somewhat greater extent, but, in the main, his plays, in so far as they hold the reader, do so by qualities which are very different from those implied in Lamb's phrase. This is true even of the most powerful drama with which his name is connected, "The Witch of Edmonton," which he produced in conjunction with Ford. One cannot say positively, of course, how much of this play we owe to the superior tragic genius of Ford, but after all it remains on the level of domestic tragedy, and despite its genuine pathos and power it is wanting in the imaginative quality which might have lifted it into the higher regions of poetry.

Miss Hunt's book is generally well-written, but we cannot regard as very happy the term which she applies to the Middleton type of comedy—the "comedy of mud"—still less such a phrase as "monstrous mush of concession," which is supposed to be descriptive of Griselda's patience—evidently from the Pankhurst rather than the Chaucerian point of view. It is a pity that such small type should be employed for quotations in these Columbia University Studies. Where the quotations are long, as is often the case in the present volume, it becomes a serious matter.

The performance of "Lady Patricia" in the Empire Theatre on Monday evening proved a disappointment to those who expected brilliant results from a comedy by the clever author of "Don." The real strength of this piece lies more in its witty dialogue and satirical characterization than in its highly artificial comic incident, and this strength was not emphasized in the representation. Nothing could be more artificial or unlifelike than the story itself, which must be familiar to many of our readers. Lady Patricia and her husband, Michael Cosway, old married folk, grow tired of humdrum matrimony, and—being of romantic disposition—seek excitement in strange loves, while pretending deep devotion to each other. Their chosen affinities, with whom they exchange vows of eternal fidelity and renunciation—for the bonds are to be entirely Platonic—are a boy and girl who, of course, fall in love and leave their elderly adorers, after humiliating exposure, to finish their lives together as they best may. Lady Patricia, the mature spouse, who revels in the notion of reciprocal devastating passions which are to be altogether Platonic, is an entirely Gilbertian figure, and, of course, ought to be enacted with perfect sincerity, as if she were really the languorous, elegant, and passionate sentimentalist of her habitual pose. It is only thus that the piece can be made effective as genuine satirical comedy. Mrs. Fiske, one of the least plastic of stage performers, has not the temperament, the style, or the acting abilities necessary for the proper interpretation of such a character. She makes of the aristocratic, mooning Patricia a pert, incisive, self-conscious personage, resembling a burlesquer never unmindful of her audience. Her impersonation lacks imagination, refinement, and fascination, three of its most vital elements. The piece was beautifully dressed and mounted, but the acting throughout was of second-rate quality; and the representation dragged for the want of a little interpretative intelligence.

The stage version of H. G. Wells's "Kipps," prepared by the author himself and Rudolf Besier, will be presented soon

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in London. It is in three acts, the first being laid in the shop where Kipps served his laborer's apprenticeship; and the second in the house of which the little hero became the proud possessor. The third and last act is divided into two scenes, the first introducing a big garden party, and the second the kitchen of Kipps's abode, where he and Anne eventually come together. Louis Calvert will be the producer, and the scenery will be painted by Mr. Joseph Harker.

Early in March there will be produced in the Aldwych Theatre, London, a four-act play, entitled "Proud Maisie," by E. G. Hemmerde, K.C., part-author of "The Butterfly on the Wheel" and "The Crucible." "Proud Maisie" deals with a Scotch subject, and abounds in moving incidents and thrilling adventures, set in a framework of pure romance. The two principal characters will be played by Miss Alexandra Carlisle and Henry Ainley.

A new three-act comedy, called "Minerva's Husband," is to be presented by the Playfellows' Society, in London. The author is J. B. Sterndale Bennett, a grandson of the famous composer, and report speaks well of his work.

Alfred Sutro's new play, "The Fire Screen," which has just been produced at the Garrick Theatre, in London, does not appear to be a work of striking originality or great dramatic value. But, it is said to have the merit of being exceedingly amusing.

There seems to have been no particular reason why the London Stage Society should have produced the "Travellers," of Norman McKeown, except possibly the fact that no one else would. Half of the independent societies appear to be possessed by the delusion that any piece which no practical manager will have anything to do with must naturally be a masterpiece. "Travellers" is a tale of the unlawful passion inspired in the breast of a mining Hercules for the wife of a puny little professor, who prates about eugenics and the necessity of improving the human race. Hercules proposes to make a practical application of these theories, but when he broaches the subject to the professor, finds himself looking down the barrel of a revolver, and listening to a stern injunction—which he obeys promptly—to be off about his proper business and keep hereafter at a respectful distance.

The New Players of London have been giving the "Medea" of Euripides in Gilbert Murray's translation. Adeline Bourne was the Medea. Mr. Walkley, writing of her performance, says:

> Unless the Medea is great enough to fill us with awe, and not merely horror, the play will not earn the honorable title of tragedy. And Miss Adeline Bourne, while she shocked and thrilled and now and then all but disgusted us with the intensity of this haggard, dishevelled, neurotic woman's distorted passions, hardly made Medea great. Her vengeance did not fill the heavens; it made the earth creepy. And there are at least two passages where Medea's sorrows, as distinct from her wrongs, well to the surface in "warm tears"; these pass by all but unnoticed.

W. B. Yeats has made a new version, in prose, of "Œdipus Rex" for production at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. Gordon Craig's scenery is used for the purpose.

"The Five Frankfurters," a successful Berlin play of which the American rights have been obtained by the Shuberts, deals with the beginnings of the house of Rothschild. The date is 1822, and the first act takes place in the living-room, situated over the historic bank in Frankfurt where the fortunes of the Rothschild family were started. Here, in company with their mother, are assembled the five brothers, who have come, one from Paris, another from London, a third from Vienna, and so forth, to discuss the question of a big loan to be made to an Austrian Duke. A love story is blended with the financial motive of the tale.

Music

MASSENET'S "CENDRILLON."

Previous to the opening of the Manhattan Opera House, four only of Massenet's operas had been heard in New York—"Manon," "Werther," "Le Cid," and "La Navarraise." Oscar Hammerstein added five more—"Thaïs," "Le Jongleur de Notre Dame," "Hérodiade," "Sapho," and "Grisélidis." The tenth of Massenet's twenty-two operas, "Cendrillon," had its first hearing in this city on Tuesday evening of last week, when it was sung at the Metropolitan Opera House by Mr. Dippel's opera company, which had previously won genuine successes with it in Chicago and Philadelphia. The cast included Mary Garden, Maggie Teyte, Marie Cavan, Mabel Riegelmann, Hector Dufranne, and M. Huberdeau, who, under the painstaking and enthusiastic direction of Campanini, gave an admirable rendering of this characteristic product of Massenet's genius. Particular interest attached to the Cinderella of Maggie Teyte, who, not long ago, jumped into sudden fame in Europe and on this occasion made her first appearance on the operatic stage here. She has evident talent for acting; her voice is youthful and charming, and no one could have sung the music better. Mary Garden has once more put Massenet under obligations by impersonating one of his parts—that of Prince Charming—with rare art, while her singing was better than usual.

When "Cendrillon" was produced in Paris it was suggested that Massenet had been prompted to set this fairy tale to music by the sensational success of Humperdinck's "Hänsel and Gretel." As a matter of fact, "Cendrillon" had been planned and partly written before that German fairy opera had been launched; but it was put aside and was not produced at the Opéra Comique till six years later (1899). It was exceptionally well received by both public and press. Louis Schneider, Massenet's official biographer, declared that the composer "dusted the tale of Perrault and the libretto of Henri Cain with a fine powder of sounds," which applies to the opera as a whole, but does not do justice to the more emotional moments of the score.

Henri Cain's libretto is of unusual poetic merit, and Massenet's music is in perfect accord with it. Because this Parisian has the gift of composing simple, pleasing melodies, the impression has gone abroad that he is not a deep expert musician. As a matter of fact, he was for a number of years professor of harmony and composition at the Paris Conservatoire, where most of the younger men now prominent in the musical life of that city came under his influence. None of these is a more thorough master of his craft than he, but better than all of them he knows how to conceal art, and combine depth with clarity, while avoiding needless dissonances. "Cendrillon" is as exquisitely scored as "The Juggler of Notre Dame." In all French opera there is perhaps nothing more delicious than the passage "You are my Prince Charming," where the oboe and voice chant together lovingly. There is a surprising amount of variety, too. Cinderella's song, in which she resigns herself to her dull life, is plaintive, while nothing could be more pompous or grotesque than the entry of her relatives. Exceptionally good, also, are the dances at the ball. The first one is rhythmically as Spanish as the "Carmen" ballet, while the third has a piquant *pizzicato ostinato*. Altogether, "Cendrillon" was decidedly worth producing. Possibly, next season, Mr. Dippel may choose to produce Massenet's latest opera, "Roma," or his "Don Quixote," which is now having a run in Paris and which would give Maurice Renaud a splendid opportunity to reveal his art in a new aspect.

Dodd, Mead & Co. have added to their collection of librettos of famous operas two of Wagner's: "Die Meistersinger" and "Tristan and Isolde," bound, like their predecessors, in red and of convenient size for the pocket. W. J. Henderson, as before, has provided readable and helpful introductions, telling the stories and commenting briefly on the peculiarities of the operas.

Inasmuch as Humperdinck's second fairy opera, "Königskinder," had its first performance anywhere in New York City, it is proper that the first books on it should also be local products. Some time ago Anna Alice Chapin wrote a book telling the story of this opera in a simple style, for the benefit of children. But since, unlike "Hänsel and Gretel," this work appeals to adults even more strongly than to the young folks, there was room for another book, devoted to the task of initiating opera-goers into the subtle art of Humperdinck's latest score. This book has been written by two well-equipped men, Lewis M. Isaacs and Kurt J. Rahlson (Dodd, Mead & Co.). It contains a portrait of the composer with a sketch of his career, pictures of some of the scenes, a lucid synopsis of the plot, and, best of all, nearly sixty pages in which the musical web of the beautiful score is put under the microscope and ana-

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lyzed. There are nearly half a hundred distinct melodies and motives in it. These are printed, numbered, and labelled, and the authors display great ingenuity in showing how the composer has used them in Wagner's manner, to enhance the eloquence and impressiveness of the music and deepen the meaning of the text. Even those who have heard this opera repeatedly will find here the key to beauties of detail that had escaped their attention. To cite only one case: In speaking of the "Beauty" motive, the authors say: "In this, the composer neatly illustrates the way in which an extra-musical idea can be translated into music; for the Beauty mirrored in the fountain is an exact inversion of the Goose Girl's own theme." Humperdinck himself has complimented the authors on having worked out their task "very carefully and with much insight."

Art

Chinese Porcelains and Hard Stones. By Edgar Gorer and J. F. Blacker. 2 large quartos, with 254 color plates. London: Bernard Quaritch.

The limitations of these beautiful albums are candidly admitted by the authors at the outset. No facsimiles can convey the ultimate material perfections of fine porcelains. Only constant handling of choice examples can teach anything about paste and potting; there are refinements in these matters that reveal themselves more readily to the finger-tips than to the eye. Yet facsimiles as good as those we have here are immensely useful. No one who pores over these reproductions can fail to quicken his color sense. And it is in the minutest of color discriminations, after all, that sense of quality consists. It is by something in the color quite obscure to the layman that the expert recognizes an Imperial vase from afar. In fact, for porcelains there are virtually no scientific criteria. Dr. Percynski's Morellian classification of the Kang-he painters will be helpful, but essentially we know porcelains instinctively—as the product of long experience of course—by "the look." When the late William M. Laffan catalogued the Morgan-Garland porcelains and overthrew scores of traditional attributions to the Ming period, he justified himself only by remarking that "Ming looks its age." And indeed there was nothing more to say.

Now, these facsimiles in Messrs. Gorer's and Blacker's catalogue are on the whole the most useful aid to a collector that we know of, precisely because they give this "look" of fine pieces. The vases have been ingeniously lighted in a way to eliminate distracting reflections and deep shadows. The resulting flatness is justified because it emphasizes the effect of the color. Here remarkable effects have been attained. The almost impossible *finesses* of early blues have been faithfully conveyed to paper, the greens and yellows are of true vividness and delicacy. Merely from these plates the student could learn much, and he who in addition possessed a few good typical pieces might readily perfect his ceramic education.

In this English-French catalogue, which is properly ancillary to the reproductions, and sensibly omits marks, the authors have laid most stress upon the classic reign of the Emperor Kang-he. Many pieces are credited to the earlier Ming dynasties, but judging from the plates, not a quarter of such attributions are tenable. In particular, the pieces ascribed to Cheng-hwa are plainly magnificent examples of Kang-he archaism. This whole matter of Ming attributions may be less important than it seems. We fancy, indeed, that if Ming pieces were as plentiful as those of Kang-he, a sensitive collector would in most cases prefer the later ware. Because of their rarity one possibly exaggerates the quality of the early pieces. Considerable attention is given in this catalogue to the Yung-ching period which witnessed the development of *famille rose* and egg-shell porcelains. The Kien-lung products, which already mark the decline of the art, are scantily but sufficiently represented. These dryly perfect masterpieces of the late eighteenth century are rarely quite satisfactory in the cabinet, but for purely decorative use nothing can be finer than the large single-color pieces of Kien-lung.

Besides porcelains, this work contains numerous plates of cut crystal, glass, and jade. These are often extraordinarily beautiful objects, but they are present at the cost of slurring more relevant matters. Whites, celadons, *clairs de lune*, crackles, etc., are quite unrepresented. The excuse is difficulty of reproduction. It would be more cogent if the process did not cope successfully with the problem of rock crystal. We could wish that the plates allotted to hard stones had been devoted to the whites, and to an epitome of the finest pottery and stoneware. The types are, after all, not numerous, and their inclusion would have made this work a complete guide to Chinese ceramics of the highest class. We hope that these authors may be moved to complete their work with a supplementary volume of the scope indicated above. Meanwhile, they have done a great service to collectors and students. The edition of this sumptuous catalogue, which is doubly useful because most of the pieces are inaccessible in private collections, is limited to one thousand copies.

A large, thin folio, in blue boards, on "Albrecht Dürer" (Macmillan, $2.50 net) is one of the best arranged art books that has come under our eye. The text, translated from the German of Dr. Friedrich Nüchter, comprises a terse biography enriched from Dürer's own writings, with explanations opposite the fifty-three plates. The reproductions are excellent, and there is an introductory note by Sir Martin Conway. It is hard to imagine anything more convenient either for the dilettante or the student beginner.

Facts about furniture, gathered and classified by an indefatigable literary worker, have at last been assembled in a single volume ("Furniture," by Esther Singleton; Duffield). As a guide book of the historic styles this is an admirable work, a veritable Baedeker of furniture. Its contents are sumptuously impressive. Something might be said favoring a slightly less reserved literary treatment of the subject matter. In contrast to the Englishmen who are now writing many good books about the decorative arts and who frequently become vehement in their enthusiasm and indignation, Miss Singleton only occasionally expresses an opinion; her nearest approach to warmth of statement is in describing Mid-Victorian iniquities:

> It seems incredible that furniture of the Chippendale, Heppelwhite, and Sheraton periods should have been turned out of old houses for mahogany marked with such clumsy and repulsive forms—furniture which frequently masquerades to-day under the name of "Colonial" and which accords with what M. Molinier aptly describes as "the horrible simplicity of prison architecture."

Styles and schools are described in the first third of the volume, after which the conventional articles of furniture are taken up. Frequent quotations from old newspaper advertisements, sales records, inventories, and wills enliven the chapters on beds, seats, cupboards, mirror frames, and clocks. A questionable generalization may be noted now and then. Concerning Spanish and Gothic furniture, for example, the assertion that "little study has yet been given to the arts in Spain during the Middle Ages" makes one wonder if the author has properly valued the research underlying Leonard Williams's three books on "Arts and Crafts of Older Spain." Generally speaking, nevertheless, this furniture book is so superior to several recently published manuals of hastily cribbed and badly compiled information that its appearance is a cause for extending congratulations to the publishing house which has had the courage to produce it so handsomely. Many of the illustrations have been drawn from the furniture collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The Société des Artistes Indépendants, who hold their next annual exhibition March 15 at the Quai d'Orsay, have reëlected Paul Signac president.

The new French Under-Secretary for Fine Arts, Léon Bérard, reflects the spirit of the times in announcing his intention to open the Louvre more freely to the public; he desires to do away entirely with "paying days." It is his hope, also, that the Luxembourg Museum may be transferred shortly to the quarters prepared for it in the Seminary of St. Sulpice.

The death is reported of the English engraver, Charles William Sherborn.

The death is reported from Farningham, Kent, of Joseph N. Ward, the well-known Egyptologist, and author of publications on art. A collection of Greek coins made by

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him is now in J. Pierpont Morgan's exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum.

Jules-Joseph Lefebvre, the well-known French painter and member of the Institute, died Saturday in Paris. He was born at Tournon, in the Department of the Seine-et-Marne, in 1834, was a pupil of Léon Cogniet, and won the Grand Prix de Rome, with his painting, The Death of Priam, in 1861, six years after his maiden exhibit in the Salon. Among his best-known paintings are La Cigale, in the Museum at St. Louis; La Vérité, in the Museum of Luxembourg, and Diane Surprise, in the museum at Buenos Ayres. He was decorated with the Legion of Honor in 1870, becoming an officer of the order in 1878. The Academy of Fine Arts elected him to membership in 1891.

News comes to us from Berlin of the death of Prof. Albert Hertel, painter of landscapes and still life, aged sixty-eight. He became a member of the Berlin Academy in 1901.

Finance

THE PROBLEM OF "DULNESS."

One topic, not at all novel, has largely superseded others in financial discussion during the past two or three weeks. In most other fields of human interest, it is taken for granted that conditions are normal and usual when nothing in particular is happening, but that the fact of sensational activity at once calls for explanation. On the Stock Exchange the contrary is true. Nobody ever thinks, when the stock market is stirred into violent commotion, of asking why prices should be moving. No financial critic ever heads an article Activity, and proceeds to discuss his topic as in itself the perplexing subject of the day. But columns of argument, inquiry, and conjecture have been published under the heading Dulness.

In a measure, this attitude is mere reflection of the impatience of speculators at the absence of any such sharp fluctuations as will favor quick profits to good guessers. But it has a more rational excuse when it is based on the fact that not only are price fluctuations narrow, but that actual purchases, especially by the outside investing public, are abnormally small. The total of 127,000 shares sold on Tuesday of last week on the New York Stock Exchange was the smallest of any day since the close of last July. It was not far above the smallest day's trading of 1911—the 80,500 shares of July 14—or the 70,800 shares of July 3, 1908, which is the lowest full day's record in fifteen years. That small day of last week followed a week whose total transactions were the smallest of any corresponding week since 1903.

Thus Dulness is at all events somewhat unusually conspicuous just now and it is natural enough that explanations should be asked. A common answer is that professional traders on the floor of the Exchange, whose dealings always make up the bulk of a day's total purchases or sales, have been forced into inactivity by the market's motionless condition. But that is to beg the question; for every one knows that if influences bearing on values were really in evidence, and if the investing public were coming in, the professional speculator would wake up. So that the real problem is, why the outsiders will neither buy nor sell.

There seem to be three different answers to the question. The first and most familiar is the political uncertainty. Whether Taft will be renominated; whether he can be elected if he is; whether his reëlection would itself be a good thing or a bad thing; whether Roosevelt's intrusion is a menace because of his excessively radical Columbus speech or a matter of reassurance because he denounces the Steel Trust prosecution; whether, if Wilson gets the Democratic nomination, he is not too radical or too unstable, and whether, if he does not get it, somebody still more radical may not run—all these are considerations which may easily make the real investor pause. It is quite possible that the course of industry and prosperity will be duly pursued, whoever is nominated or elected. But in the high financial quarters, where opinion is largely formulated for Wall Street (whence it percolates to the outside investing world), there has been repeated and obstinate declaration to the contrary. To that extent, the very people who are now complaining most bitterly of Dulness are themselves chiefly responsible for it.

A somewhat similar comment must be made on the second explanation, that the Trust prosecutions, the restriction on railway rate advances, and the tariff legislation are the cause of the outside public's apathy. A good case might be made out for the argument that all these things were exaggerated as influences on prosperity, or that, at any rate, they have been discounted. But, on the other hand, important financiers are on record as proclaiming impetuously that these three influences were bound to paralyze all activity, and their predictions had a hand in shaping the programme of the public.

It might be remarked of the two explanations already noticed that the absence of any continuous decline in prices can be construed as reassuring. It would seem to mean that the public intends to keep what securities it has already. The third explanation, less frequently heard, is somewhat more far-reaching, since it involves the query whether prices of stocks and merchandise are really low or not. Some commodities—cotton and steel, for instance—seem to be cheap, even though the present price of cotton would have been called high in 1901. But with other commodities the case is different. *Bradstreet's* February average of all staple prices is the lowest since last August; but the difference from recent months is very slight; it is far above the monthly average even of 1909, and is higher than that of any month between the early nineties and December, 1906. Are we, then, economizing and saving and accumulating as we have led ourselves to suppose? Or have we been under an illusion, and is a new chapter of readjusting prices and cost of living before us?

It is an interesting problem. Probably the economist would reply that, partly or chiefly as a result of increase in the metallic money supply, prices have for fourteen years been adjusting themselves to a higher standard; that wages of labor have gone up simultaneously so as to allow the workingman to buy at the higher prices the same quantity of goods he used to buy, and that, labor cost having thus advanced, prices of commodities cannot go back to their old-time level without cutting wages—which employers dare not do. From one point of view this might be called an unnatural and precarious position. But from another the conclusion might as easily be that economic forces have brought the normal price level higher than of old; that, as in the present case of cotton, what used to be deemed a comparatively high price may now be actually low, and that people may really economize and heap up capital for future use, without bringing back prices to the level of 1900.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

Alden, Percy. Democratic England. Macmillan. $1.50 net.

Allen, F. N. S. The Plain Path. Boston: Houghton Mifflin. $1.30 net.

Anson, W. R. The Law and Custom of the Constitution. Vol. I. Parliament. Reissue revised. Frowde.

Baldensperger, F. Alfred de Vigny. Paris: Hachette.

Baring, Maurice. The Russian People. Doran. $3.50 net.

Bartlett, F. O. The Guardian. Boston: Small, Maynard. $1.35 net.

Beerbohm, Max. Zuleika Dobson. Lane Co. $1.30 net.

Benton, P. A. Kanuri Readings. Frowde.

Betham-Edwards, Miss. In the Heart of the Vosges. Chicago: McClurg.

Bosanquet, Bernard. Logic; Second edition. 2 vols. Frowde.

Bosanquet, B. The Principle of Individuality and Value. (Gifford Lectures, 1911.) Macmillan. $3.25 net.

Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature, Nos. 19 to 27, inclusive. Putnam. 40 cents each.

Cicero. Ten Orations and Selected Letters. Edited by J. R. Bishop, F. A King, and N. W. Helm. American Book Co. $1.

Dante's Divina Commedia. Translated into English verse by Sir Samuel W. Griffith. Frowde.

Davis, M. O. The Story of England. Frowde.

Delattre, Floris. English Fairy Poetry, from the Origins to the Seventeenth Century. Frowde.

Delattre, Floris. Robert Herrick. Paris: Félix Alcan.

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Ditman, N. E. Home Hygiene and Prevention of Disease. Duffield. $1.50 net.
Eucken, R. The Problem of Human Life. Translated by W. S. Hough and W. R. B. Gibson. Scribner. $2 net.
Farnol, Jeffery. My Lady Caprice. Dodd, Mead. $1 net.
Forbush, W. B. The Coming Generation. D. Appleton. $1.50 net.
Foulke, W. D. Dorothy Day; Maya. Cosmopolitan Press. $1.25 net, each.
Freeman, M. E. W. The Butterfly House. Dodd, Mead. $1.20 net.
Granger, Grace. The Light of the Gods. Cosmopolitan Press. $1.
Groves, W. H. The Rational Memory. Second edition. Cosmopolitan Press. $1.35 net.
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